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THE RIGHT OF TRANSLATION AND REPRODUCING ILLUSTRATIONS IS RESERVED.

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LORD DERBY'S RETIREMENT.

THE retirement of Lord Derby, though positively announced for some time past by the *Times*, the *Post*, and other well-informed journals, has, now that it has actually taken place, caused a general feeling of surprise. The Conservative papers thought it their duty to affirm, to the last moment, that the great Conservative chief was rapidly getting better, and that he would soon be in a position to resume the conduct of affairs. It had, apparently, not been thought worth while to enlighten them as to the true state of the case. However, now that Lord Derby has formally resigned, and that Mr. Disraeli has replaced him, nothing remains to be done but to review the career of the outgoing Premier, that it may be seen to what praise he is entitled for his past services; and that of the incoming Premier, that people may judge how far he is fitted for the proud position to which he has just been raised. On neither of these points can the two great contending parties which divide the State be expected to agree. Nevertheless, party feeling does not run very high just now, and everyone seems disposed to render justice to the many high qualities possessed by Lord Derby. Like Mr. Disraeli himself, he commenced political life as a Liberal, and in that character gave powerful aid towards passing the first Reform Bill. He has lived long enough to ascertain by his own personal experience that to pass a Reform Bill it is no more necessary to be a Liberal than—as

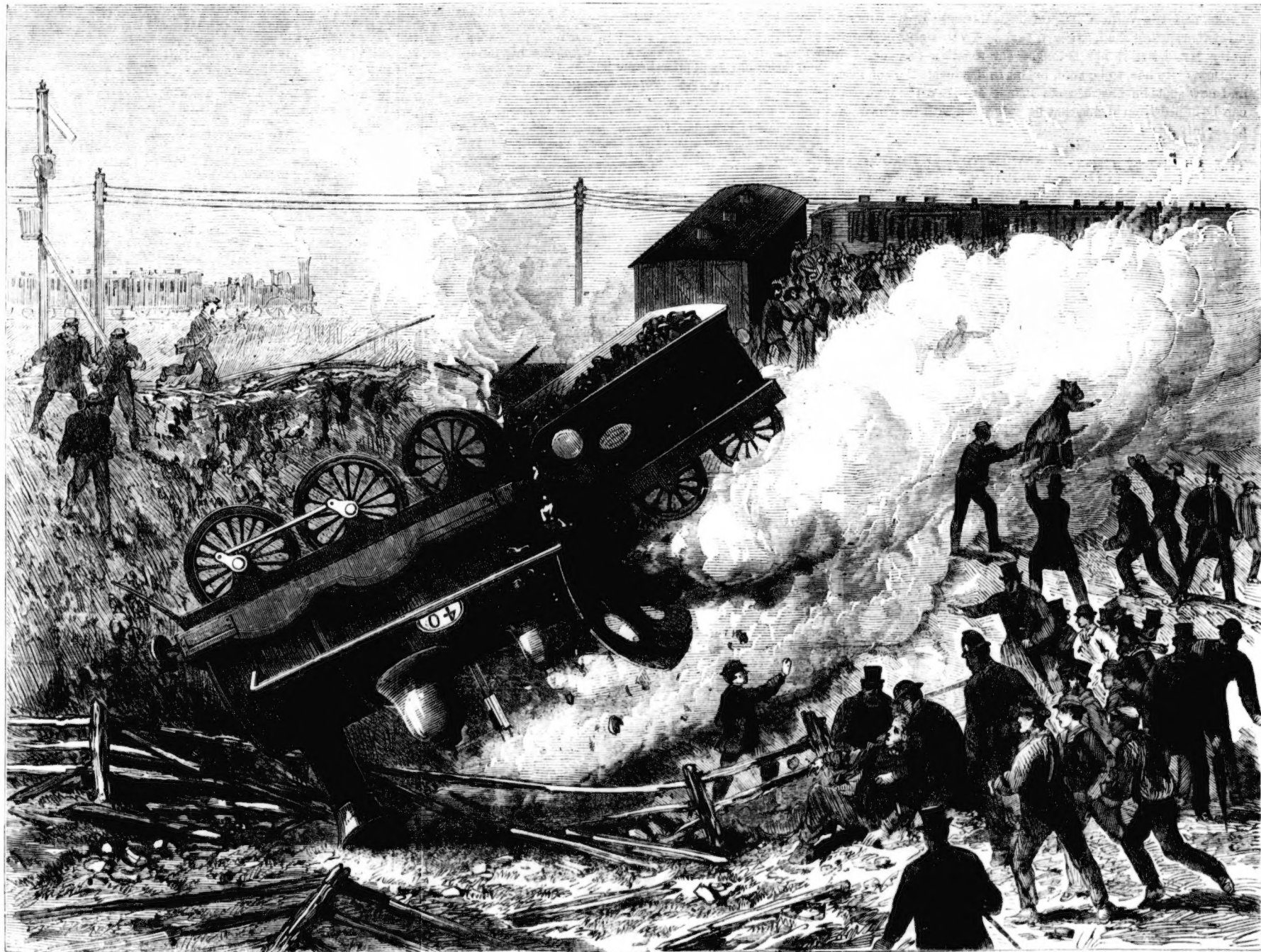
Mr. Lowe's attitude last Session suggests—it is necessary to be a Conservative in order to oppose one.

In fact, to say in the present day that a man is simply a Conservative or a Liberal, is to say very little indeed about him. To know what manner of political man he is, we must first learn to what particular section of Liberalism or Conservatism he belongs; and whether, moreover, he does not combine a few shades of Conservatism with his Liberalism, or vice versa. Lord Palmerston, during the last few years of his life, was as little anxious to pass a Reform Bill as Lord Derby himself; and the Reform Bill which Lord Derby did pass last Session might have been objected to, without the least inconsistency, by Lord Palmerston on the ground that it went too far. There are Liberals, of course, who are Liberals, and nothing else, like Mr. Bright; and there are stanch, stolid Conservatives, like General Peel. But between these two extremes there are infinite varieties of the genus politician, even if we consider the views entertained in Parliament on domestic questions alone. On foreign subjects both the great parties are divided among themselves. There are Conservatives who are in favour of maintaining treaties, and there are Conservatives who care little for treaties and think the one great object of England abroad should be to keep out of quarrels. So there are Liberals who, in the warmth of their Liberalism, would espouse the cause of every oppressed nationality who may appeal to England for aid; while there are other Liberals,

men who place political economy above most things and economy in expenditure above all, to whom the notion of going to war for a principle or a sentiment is especially hateful, and who are convinced that the immediate comforts of peace cannot be purchased too dearly.

However, compared with other leading statesmen, the Earl of Derby may well claim credit for consistency. The only difference between him and Mr. Gladstone in this particular is that, whereas Mr. Gladstone from a Conservative became a Liberal, the Earl of Derby from a Liberal became a Conservative. Perhaps Mr. Gladstone's Conservatism was too intense to be kept up for any long time; while it may fairly be said that the Earl of Derby's Liberalism had a broader basis to rest upon before the Reform Bill than after the Reform Bill had been passed. Indeed, too much importance seems to be attached to the little fact that Lord Derby was once a Liberal. His great display of Liberalism was made in connection with the Reform Bill of 1832; but he very soon subsided into a mild species of what is now called Conservatism, and from the time of his openly joining the Conservative party until the Reform measure of last Session, when the Conservatives out-Liberalled the Liberals, never ceased to vote with them.

Lord Derby is not likely to be forgotten by the present generation, and least of all by those who have heard him speak. He may be remembered, too, by the next generation



THE ACCIDENT ON THE BRIGHTON RAILWAY NEAR CLAPHAM JUNCTION.

as one of the last of the great party leaders, and as a statesman who was capable of dealing with important questions from a high political or diplomatic point of view, though he never showed the least aptitude for questions involving politico-economical or financial considerations. If the writers of the future pay the nineteenth century anything like the attention which we of the nineteenth century devote to the eighteenth, it will be deemed a sign of ignorance not to know that Lord Derby did his duty as a great proprietor, that he published an admirable translation of the *Iliad*, and that he was called "the Rupert of debate." But the great body of the public, in the present day, will think of his Parliamentary career alone, and will probably sum it up somewhat as follows:—"He helped, as a Liberal, to pass the Reform Bill of 1832; became a Conservative, and as a Conservative helped to pass the Reform Bill of 1867."

The proper man to explain the career of Lord Derby would be his successor, Mr. Disraeli, who would be (indeed, already has been) particularly eloquent on that very subject of the Reform Bill as forced upon the acceptance of reluctant Liberals by a Conservative Cabinet. The Liberals, according to Mr. Disraeli's celebrated oft-repeated dictum, ought not to be allowed a monopoly of Reform. The Conservative party, or, as Mr. Disraeli prefers to call it, and does call it whenever he is quite sure that he will not be misunderstood, the "Tory party" is "the historical party" which has governed England during its most brilliant period. It, also, has had its reformers, though they may not have gone to work in the same manner as those who call themselves emphatically "Liberals"—implying thereby that those who are opposed to them are necessarily illiberal. Thus Pitt—to quote the great example, which the Conservatives, since their introduction of a Reform Bill in 1859, have never been tired of citing—was in favour of Free Trade and of Catholic Emancipation.

History is an ocean in which the philosopher who fishes with skill may find whatever he wants. But the case of Pitt was not wanted when the Tories of the last generation opposed the Emancipation of the Catholics with so much vehemence; nor did the Conservatives of Sir Robert Peel's time bring it forward when they made what they declared to be an eminently-constitutional fight against the free-trade policy of Mr. Cobden. In fact, whether they have done good or harm, it is impossible not to see that for the last half century—indeed, ever since the pacification of Europe under Tory high-pressure—they have opposed every measure of real importance that has ultimately been passed. Some of the obstructionists, no doubt, gave in at the last moment; but until the last moment they opposed with all their force Catholic Emancipation, the Reform Bill of 1832, Popular Education, Free Trade, and the various Reform Bills brought in by Liberal Ministers during the last dozen years. To this obstructionist party Mr. Disraeli has belonged for about a quarter of a century. He has, to be sure, begun to "educate" it of late, and now that he has become Prime Minister the best that can be hoped from him is that he will go on with its education as rapidly as possible.

THE ACCIDENT ON THE BRIGHTON RAILWAY NEAR CLAPHAM JUNCTION.

As stated in our last week's number, a very serious accident occurred, on the 19th inst., on the new high-level line of the London, Brighton and South Coast Railway, which has recently been opened to Clapham Junction from Victoria. The exact spot where the accident occurred is within a dozen yards of the Poupert junction of the West London and London, Chatham, and Dover (Clapham Junction Extension) lines, midway between Battersea-fields, through which the lines of several companies are carried. The train to which the accident happened left the Victoria terminus at thirty-six minutes past eight o'clock a.m., and consisted of the engine and tender, two brake-vans, one in front and the other in the rear, and nine carriages, mostly first and second class. It was a Croydon train, via London Bridge, and had just reached the Poupert junction, where a bridge carries the line over the West London Extension, when the engine left the rails as it was going round a curve and dragged the tender and carriages after it, first on one side of the line and then on the other, tearing up the ballast as it proceeded (the train was going thirty-six miles an hour), smashing the sleepers, knocking them to all parts of the road, and finally rolling over the embankment, which is about 30 ft. deep, dragging the tender with it, and the guard's van partially down. The engine-driver, named William Harrison, and the fireman, George Green, together with the head guard, named Watson, on discovering that the train had left the rails applied the brakes, and stood to their posts at the imminent risk every second of being precipitated over the embankment, and, even when they found the engine going over, they went with it. The engine-driver and fireman were first rescued from their perilous positions, and were conveyed with all dispatch to the signal-man's box at Poupert junction. Harrison was found to have been the most severely injured, and the wonder is that both he and the fireman escaped with their lives. Meantime the passengers, of whom there were about forty in the train, had succeeded in getting out of the carriages, and were asking for assistance. The ladies and young children were first attended to; and, as most of them appeared to be more frightened than hurt, some of them were, after some difficulty, transferred to the Clapham junction, and others endeavoured to find their way home again.

The passengers in the train had a wonderful escape, and their position, when the engine left the rails and dragged the carriages from one side of the embankment to the other, must have been a fearful one, for, as they state, at least three times they appeared to be about to fall over, and the carriages were only saved from a fall by the resistance which the sleepers offered. An examination of these pieces of timber shows that for about 100 yards they have been cut to pieces, and long strips of iron were, as it were, shaved off the rails, the latter being found in all directions. The safety of the passengers, however, is mainly owing to the fact of the locomotive and tender falling over the embankment lengthways, thus stopping the guard's van and the carriages from following.

A LOVER OUTWITTED.—A singular duel took place at the Bois de Vincennes a few days ago. A young lady had two lovers, both equally eligible. She inclined to Charles if Henry could be got out of the way. The gentlemen quarrelled. A duel was arranged. Charles fired his pistol, and so did Henry—the first in his life. Charles fell motionless. Henry, seeing the terrible consequences of his fire, and a prey to the feelings akin to a murderer, fled to Brussels. Hardly had he left the field when Charles rose up, laughing heartily. The second, aware of the state of affairs, charged the pistols with a piece of old linen. Charles hurried to his Juliet, related the story, and, the other dear charmer being away, the young lady bestowed her hand upon her deliverer, and they were united on Saturday last.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

The further consideration of the French Press Bill is postponed to Monday next. Hitherto the Government has prevailed over all the opposition brought against the restrictive clauses of the bill, and it is not likely that the measure will be liberalised in its further progress.

ITALY.

The Chamber of Deputies have approved the total expenditure for 1868, estimated at 997,965,000 lire. The report of the committee on this subject states the deficit for the present year to be 218,000,000, exclusive of the loss on exchange in payments abroad. The interest of the national debt amounts to 54 per cent of the general expenses. Count Cambray Digny announced that the estimates for 1869 will be presented in the first week in March. The Chamber rejected a proposal made by Signor Cadolini that the committee should present a collective report upon Count Cambray Digny's financial projects. The Chamber instructed the committee to present a report upon each bill when ready. The Chamber has adjourned until March 2 for the carnival vacation.

PRUSSIA.

A Convention was signed last Saturday evening between Prussia and the United States respecting the treatment of emigrants who have not fulfilled their military obligations in their own country. The main stipulations of the treaty are believed to be as follows:—"The North German Confederate Governments will consider North Germans naturalised in America as American citizens after five years' residence in that country, with the exception of criminals and direct deserters from their flag. If a German naturalised in America returns to his native country without intending to go back to America, he will be regarded as having abandoned his American naturalisation rights. This clause also applies to naturalised Germans who may reside for more than two years in North Germany after returning from America. All clauses of the treaty equally apply to American citizens naturalised in Germany. The Extradition Treaty of 1852 respecting criminals is extended to the whole of North Germany. The duration of the treaty is fixed at ten years, and the ratifications are to be exchanged within six weeks."

The ex-King of Hanover's gushing display at the Hietzing dinner seems likely to cost him dear. The Prussian Government threatens to stop the pocket money he receives as a monarch out of business unless he makes an apology for his offensive speech, or promises never to offend again in a similar way.

AUSTRIA.

At the sitting of the Upper House Committee of the Reichsrath upon ecclesiastical affairs, on Tuesday, the draught of the Marriage Laws Amendment Bill was adopted. The bill proposes a restoration of certain clauses of the civic code in existence before the conclusion of the Concordat, and renders the celebration of marriage before the civil authorities a matter of necessity, coinciding thus with the vote of the Lower House. The minority of the committee announced its intention of submitting separate proposals to the House.

THE NETHERLANDS.

The Session of the States-General was opened, on Tuesday, by a Royal Commission, consisting of the Ministers of the Interior and Finance. The opening speech says the Government considers that its conduct of foreign policy has been advantageous to the country. It was with regret, but after mature reflection, that it decided upon dissolving the former Chamber. There was at present a new Chamber, one fifth of which consisted of new members. "The Government and the representatives," continues the speech, "have now to guarantee that agreement between the Executive and Legislative powers which is necessary to strengthen confidence in our public institutions. If the Government receives the support of the States-General, the Session will be fruitful. Let us all unite in affection towards our Sovereign and in care for his faithful people, and the country will profit by our labours."

THE DANUBIAN PRINCIPALITIES.

There is no doubt, say the Paris papers, that intrigues are at work in the Principalities, the object of which is the independence of Roumania and Servia. One Paris paper mentions a report that a deputation had gone to St. Petersburg to secure the countenance of Russia to a declaration of independence by Roumania. France does not seem inclined to take part with these movements; on the contrary, so far as can be seen, she gives them every discouragement in her power.

The Government at Bucharest has presented to the Chamber several bills relative to the organisation of the army and the national defences. They have been received with enthusiasm, and the first has been declared to be urgent. The *Zastava*, speaking of the Balkans, state that the whole of Bulgaria is ready to rise to the cry of "Liberty or death!" which is the watchword of the insurgents. About 2000 young Bulgarians were posted along the Danube, waiting a favourable occasion to cross it. The Bulgarian committee had bought eight guns. It was rumoured that the insurgents had crossed the frontier, and that an engagement had taken place between them and the Turks, in which the latter had been defeated. The news, however, is not yet officially confirmed.

THE UNITED STATES.

President Johnson has issued an order removing Mr. Stanton from the post of Secretary for War. Mr. Stanton, however, still holds the office, and, having referred the President's order to the Senate, that body has passed a resolution declaring that his removal is illegal. Congress having referred the matter to the Reconstruction Committee, a resolution for the impeachment of the President was introduced in the House of Representatives, and adopted. On Tuesday, we are informed through the Atlantic cable, a Committee appointed by the House of Representatives formally impeached President Johnson at the bar of the Senate. The Senate immediately appointed a Select Committee to consider the matter. President Johnson has sent to the Senate the nomination of Mr. Thomas Ewing as Secretary for War, and also a message in which he maintains that the removal of Mr. Stanton was no violation of the Tenure of Office Act, and expresses a wish that the constitutionality of the Act should be tested before the Supreme Court.

The New York papers of the 12th contain a long correspondence between the President, General Grant, and various members of the Government respecting the General's resignation of the War Department, which enabled Mr. Stanton again to take possession of the office. The President sent to the House of Representatives copies of a letter of the 10th to General Grant, the General's reply, and letters of Secretaries Seward, Welles, McCulloch, Browning, and Postmaster-General Randall, corroborating Mr. Johnson's version of the interview with General Grant, in presence of the Cabinet, relative to the reinstatement of Mr. Stanton. Mr. Johnson's letter accuses General Grant of insubordination, and of accepting the portfolio of War in the interest of Mr. Stanton and with intent to circumvent the President. General Grant replies that the circumstances justified his asking written instructions from the President relative to his disobeying the orders of Mr. Stanton. He disclaims any intention now or hereafter of disobeying the orders of the President when legally and distinctly communicated.

It is stated that the military garrison at Washington is to be largely increased by order of the President.

Mr. Brown, the Republican representative from Kentucky, has been refused permission to take his seat by the House, upon the ground that he participated in the rebellion.

It is officially announced that the ratification of the new Constitution by Alabama was rejected by a deficiency of 15,000 in the total vote. A bill has been introduced in the Senate, and referred to the Judiciary Committee, declaring Alabama entitled to immediate representation in Congress, the Constitution having been ratified by a majority of those voting.

It is reported that Mr. Seward has requested Messrs. Charles

O'Connor and James T. Brady to go to Europe, in order to defend American citizens prosecuted by the British authorities for Fenianism.

The Peterhoff prize case has been finally settled in the United States District Court, and the moneys paid over to the English claimant's agent.

MEXICO.

According to the New York journals, it is reported that a movement has been inaugurated in the northern States of Mexico to establish a separate republic, and that a revolution is organising at Puebla in the interest of Ortega.

HAYTI.

The New York papers publish intelligence from Havannah to the 14th, stating that the revolution in Hayti was general. The principal towns were in arms against General Salnave, and General Solomon had been proclaimed President.

THE DISTRESS IN THE EAST END OF LONDON.

ON Monday the United Executive Committee, formed for the relief of the exceptional distress in the east of London, held a meeting at the Mansion House, the Lord Mayor acting as chairman; and, as will be seen, their proceedings took a very unexpected turn, and resulted in a unanimous resolution to suspend their relief operations for two days for reasons which will appear. Mr. Samuda, M.P., after some formal business had been transacted, referred the committee to a letter which appeared in the *Times* of that morning, and which, he said, demanded their most earnest attention. It was from Messrs. Pontifex and Wood, shipbuilders, to the effect that thirty carpenters, employed temporarily by them at their works at Millwall upon the agreed wages of 5s. 6d. a day, to which they (the masters) had offered to add an additional 1s. on Saturdays as an inducement to them not to require a half holiday on that day, but to work till four o'clock, in common with their regular hands, had on Saturday struck work. They had given no previous notice of their intention, but simply intimated that they would not resume work unless they were paid 8d. per hour, and have the Saturday half-holiday. The Messrs. Pontifex added that some of these men were unable to come to work with them until they had advanced them money to enable them to get their tools out of pawn. Mr. Samuda continued to say that with such a letter as that before them it became them, as a committee sitting there for the purpose of mainly relieving the exceptional distress among the labouring classes in the east of London, to reconsider their position. It might be argued that the action of thirty men and a strike of thirty men ought not to restrain the charity which the committee were embodied to bestow among those who had not been the originators of strikes nor actors in them in any way; but he looked, however, with very great regret upon the statement of Messrs. Pontifex, coming as it did upon another to the effect that certain shipwrights were, through the agency of some benevolent persons, offered work upon terms which they subsequently refused, though they admitted those terms were not only fair, but in excess of what they would have been disposed to accept. The men, in the case of Messrs. Pontifex, were employed to work at extremely good wages—33s. a week, or 5s. 6d. a day, and a shilling extra in lieu of the half-holiday on Saturday, making 34s. He believed that they had been wiled away from their work by the influence which was acting through trades unions, and that the course they had taken must have been at the dictation of a trades union. It was a question, therefore, for the very grave consideration of the committee—with that fatal influence at work among the labouring classes—whether they were right in relieving persons who might indirectly assist trades unions, seeing that the committee might thus become the instrument, with the funds placed in their hands by the public for benevolent purposes, of enabling those unions to act in restraint of trade and to carry out their mischievous agency. In every instance in which labour had an opportunity of readjusting its relations with capital during the period of the present exceptional distress in the east of London, it had invariably, from some cause or other, failed to do so, and had endeavoured to exact an amount of remuneration wholly beyond the power of capital to afford. He wanted to know whether in that state of things, which appeared to be very extensive, the committee ought to be content to sit still and simply go on doling out the money placed at their disposal for relieving exceptional distress. Thirty men might, no doubt, exercise their right to strike, but the effect in this case might have been to cause three times thirty men to be thrown out of work and to come to the committee for relief for themselves and their families. He had understood that the shipwrights had consented to work for Messrs. Green at a small reduction of wages; but Mr. Currie, a member of the committee, had stated that no such reduction had been agreed upon, and that the sole alteration made by the shipwrights in Messrs. Green's case was that, whereas they formerly took 7s. a day, they now proposed to accept 6s. 6d. during the progress of the work, but retaining their claim to the remaining 6d. at its completion; so that the men in no way whatever met the exceptional distress of the neighbourhood by accepting a reduction of wages, that being, in fact, no reduction whatever. Then, again, when the building of two vessels was offered to the men in the Isle of Dogs, through the agency of Mr. Bullivant, on terms which they themselves acknowledged to be not only liberal but in excess of what they had previously received, they started a difficulty, which finally resulted in the negotiation being broken off, and that was that they would not consent to accept a drawing account of less than 6s. a day in lieu of 5s. 6d., which had been offered them; for this reason, that, as they alleged, if they accepted only 5s. 6d. a day, they would be leaving in the hands of their employers 30 per cent of their money until the termination of the work; a most extraordinary argument, indeed, in support of what they called the fairness of their claim, since it amounted to an admission that the work offered them was equivalent to 5s. 6d. a day and 30 per cent, or 7s. a day. He had no doubt that the real objection to their accepting 5s. 6d. a day was not to be found in any independent reluctance of the men themselves, but in the fact, in all probability, that their union, which repudiated piecework, would not allow them to work for less than 6s. a day, and hence the loss to the neighbourhood of the occupation which would have been obtained, and of the excellent wages the men would have received if they had not conjured up difficulties of their own, and which, he was informed, had the effect of driving the building of the vessels to the Clyde. He submitted that the committee would not be doing their duty by the funds at their disposal if they did not withhold the further administration of them until this matter was satisfactorily explained. The Rev. Septimus Hansard, Rector of Bethnal-green, submitted, on the principle of *audi alteram partem*, that, before they arrived at a conclusion on the letter of Messrs. Pontifex, they ought to hear the men themselves. The Rev. T. J. Rowell dissented from the suggestion that, by reason of the conduct of those thirty men, the committee should hold their hands from relieving the real distress, which was widespread and intricate. He had found it among a great many classes unconnected with shipbuilding—such as costermongers, cobblers, and others. Mr. Ravenhill mentioned a circumstance in point which came before the Poplar board of guardians last week. The labour committee, finding that a number of bricklayers were at work in the stoneyard, proposed that they should be set to work to build a new boundary wall, which was wanted, instead of being kept at breaking stones. The men refused to work at the wall, and the labour committee expressed a strong opinion that their union was at the bottom of the refusal, explaining at the same time that they did not ask them to lay the full number of bricks they would be required to lay as an ordinary day's work, but that they would be satisfied with some work of that kind as a labour test. Mr. Scrutton, the head of a deputation from the East Central Relief Association, said the bricklayers had not up to that morning begun the work, though everything was in readiness for them to do so. He believed it was a matter of pride with them. A dispensary was being erected in the



A NATIVE COUNCIL OF WAR IN ABYSSINIA.

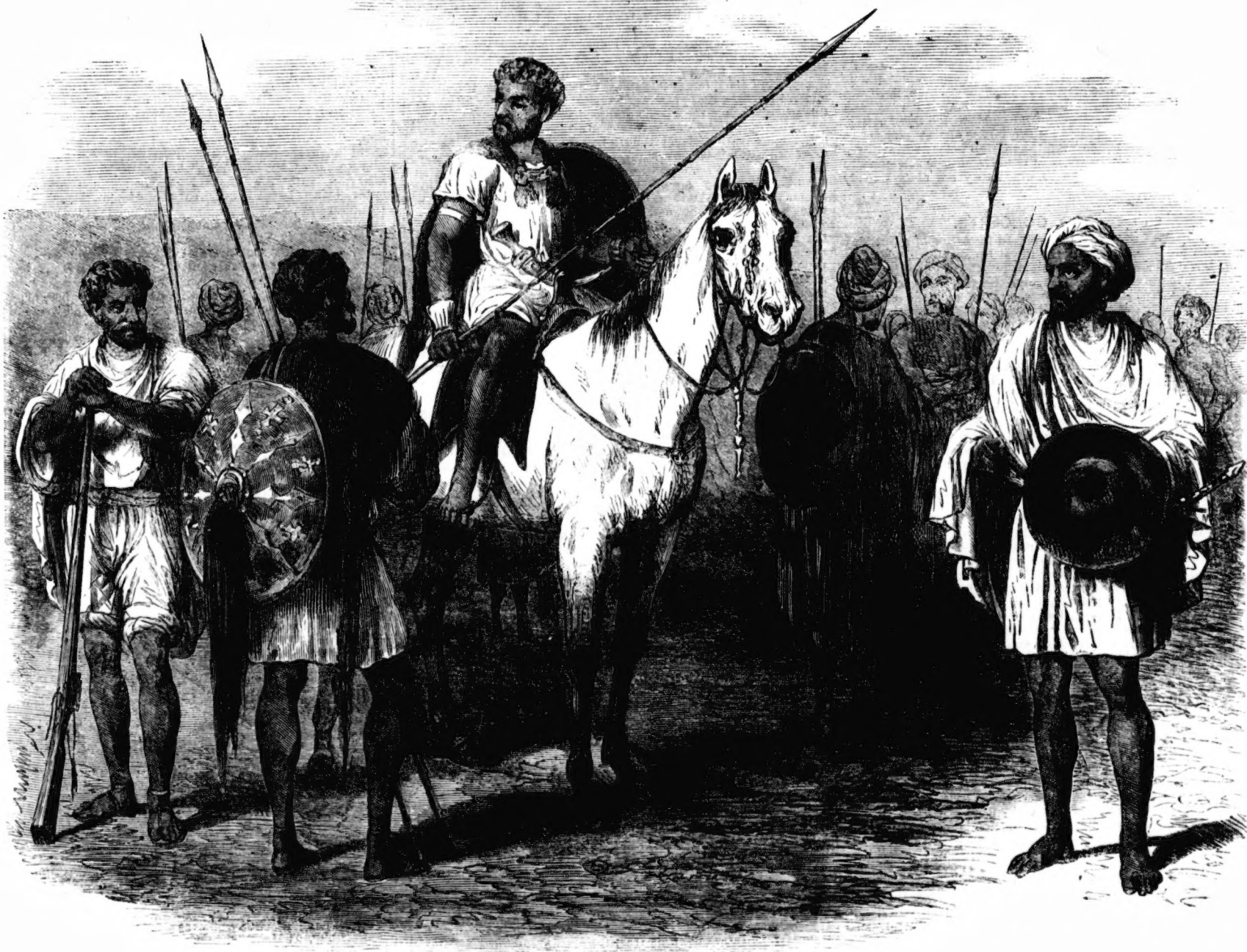
ABYSSINIAN WARRIORS OF THE GALLAS TRIBE.

We have already given some account of the Shohoes and Abyssinians, and our Engraving this week represents one of those with whom we shall also be concerned. In the course of time the Gallas have taken possession of a large section of Eastern Africa. Separated into many tribes independent of each other, they extend, so to say, from the eighth degree of north to the third degree of south latitude, amounting, in the whole, five to eight millions, a number which scarcely any other African race can boast. When, in the sixteenth century, Mohammed Graga overran and destroyed the land, coming from the south with his innumerable horsemen, the Gallas seized on some of the finest portions of Abyssinia. The name Gallas in their own language means immigrants, and has been given them by the Arabs and Abyssinians. They call themselves

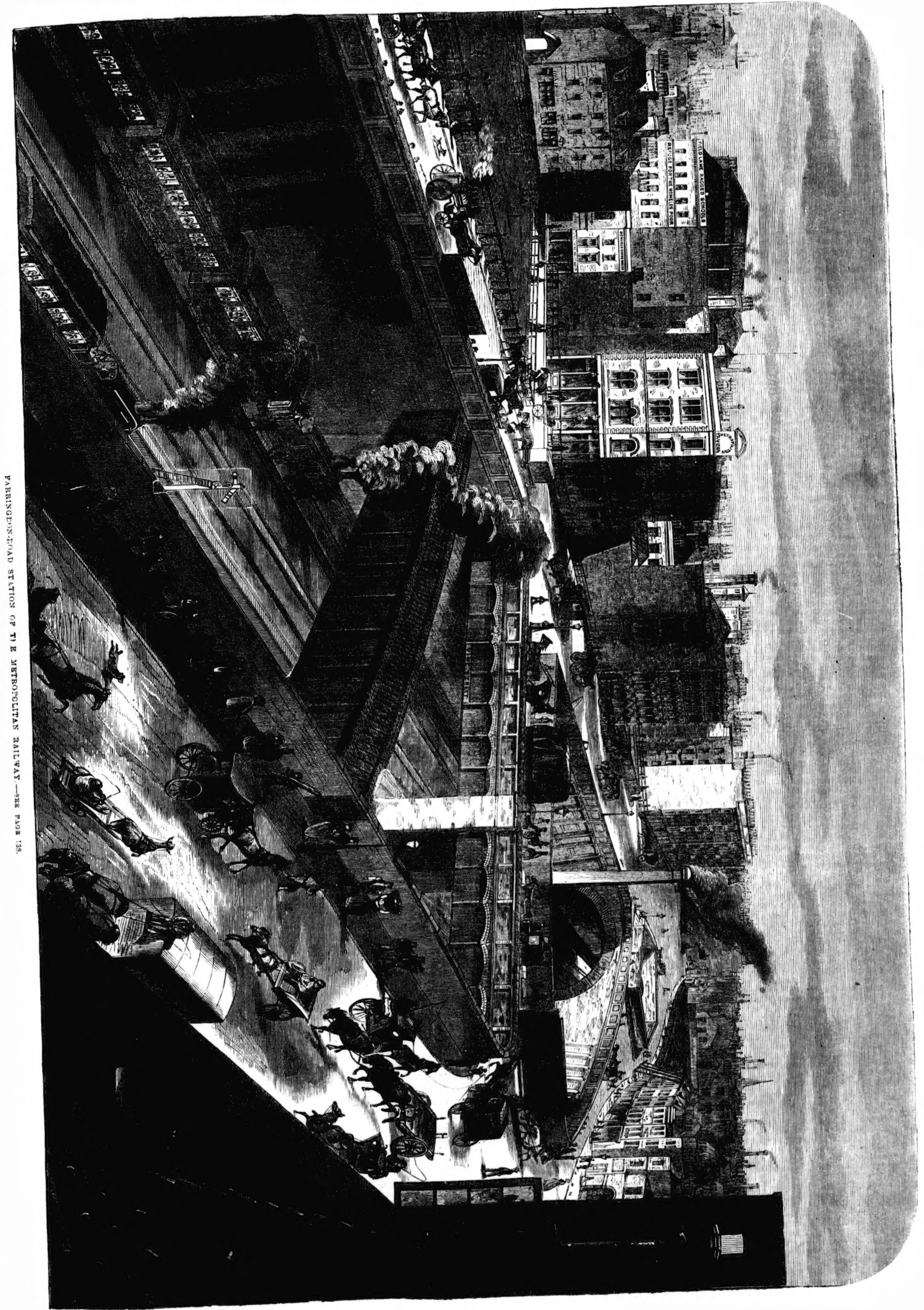
"Orma," or "Orama," strong or brave men; and their language they call "Afan Orma," the mouth of the Ormas. There are different accounts of the origin of these people; but it is certain that on their first appearance in Abyssinia they were a wild and warlike race, who, had they been united under one head, might have conquered the whole country. After having occupied, however, the finest provinces of Abyssinia, they began to make war on each other, which checked their further progress, and made it easy for the Abyssinians to subjugate one tribe after another. With their horsemen, notwithstanding their numbers, the Gallas found it difficult to conquer the mountainous highlands of Abyssinia.

In general the Gallas have a manly appearance; are large and powerfully built, but with savage features, made still more savage-looking and fierce by their long hair, worn like a mane over the shoulders. They are principally of a dark-brown colour, by which,

no less than by intellectual capacity and teachableness, they are so advantageously distinguished from all other East Africans that Galla slaves, especially the young women, are much sought after by the slave-dealers, and in Arabia fetch from 100 dols. to 150 dols. each. Their bodies and long upper garment, in form like the Roman toga, are besmeared with a thick crust of butter, emitting an unpleasant odour which may be scented from afar. The women wear a short gown of leather fastened round their loins by a girdle, on the skirt of which a number of pieces of coral are hung by way of ornament. The more wealthy wear, also, a large upper garment over this gown, which gives them the appearance of European women. The weapons of the Gallas are a spear, sword, and shield, and they all ride on horseback; even the women gallop beside or behind their husbands, for among them it is considered degrading to go on foot. The Galla horses are small, but beautiful in colour and extremely swift, though



ABYSSINIAN WARRIORS OF THE GALLAS TRIBE.



FARRINGTON ROAD STATION OF THE METROPOLITAN RAILWAY.—SEE PAGE 132.

INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. 322. A NEW ASPIRANT TO FAME.

LORD ARTHUR CLINTON has astonished the House of Commons, and, indeed, all men out of the House who know him. But before we inform our readers how he has done this, we will tell them who and what he is. Lord Arthur Pelham-Clinton is, then, the third son of the late Duke of Newcastle, of Crimean fame—or as, perhaps, we ought to say, notoriety—the man who penned the famous despatch to Lord Raglan, which forced his Lordship, against his will, to invade the Crimea—that despatch which his Grace read at Lord John Russell's house to the assembled Ministers there, they (as Kinglake tells us) being asleep the while. It was, then, mainly his Grace who forced our Army to invade the Crimea. What he did for it when there—or, rather, what he did not—we all too well remember. For a time his Grace was loaded with obloquy; and if he ever got clear of any part of his load, it was only after the old and questionable fashion—to wit, by making a scapegoat of the "system." Truth is, the Duke had respectable abilities, but was not strong enough for such a place at such a time. He could speak well, write eloquent and argumentative despatches; but the management of a great war was altogether "aboon his might." His ambition outstretched his intellectual power; he meddled with things too great for him. Well—like father like son, as the proverb says—Lord Arthur Clinton inherits his father's infirmity, though, we must say, in justice to the noble Duke, in a very aggravated form. The father had, as we have said, respectable abilities, and but for that dreadful storm which he had to encounter he might have passed into history as a very respectable administrator; but the son has in the House shown no abilities. On other boards he may be capable of doing clever things, but on these he has literally done nothing. He has never, to our knowledge, spoken in the House; and the joke is here that he never heard a long speech throughout. Of course, this is not strictly true. It is true, though, that he rarely does sit out a speech of any length, and never a debate. His Lordship, in short, like many young men of the aristocratic class, is a very active, lively bird, never perching long, but almost always on the wing, flying now hither, now thither, and anon nobody knows whither. This, then, is Lord Arthur Clinton, as he is known in the House. Well, our readers may fancy our astonishment when one morning we saw upon the notice-paper five grave abstract resolutions on the wrongs of Ireland, with Lord Arthur Clinton's name attached as the mover thereof. The fact that Lord Arthur should propose to move any resolutions was surprising enough, but that he should meddle with such a question and propose such resolutions was, indeed, very astounding. For these resolutions were clearly the work of no "prentice hand." They were wisely conceived. They were, indeed, evidently inspired by Mr. John Stuart Mill's pamphlet; and they were very skillfully drawn. What could it mean? has been asked in the House a hundred times. Some suggested that his Lordship had been "put up," as we say in the House; but that idea was quickly dismissed, because, as a member said, it was not possible to imagine that anyone would put up Lord Arthur to do such a work as that. And so the thing was, and is still, a mystery.

HOW THE LORD ADVOCATE GOT INTO THE HOUSE.

The new Scotch Lord Advocate has made his debut. His name is Gordon. He was appointed to the office when the Conservatives came in. For more than a year after his appointment he was without a seat in Parliament. Naturally, the chief law officer of Scotland ought to represent some place in Scotland; and, no doubt, everything was done that could be done by his Conservative friends—especially those in office—to get him into the House through the gateway of some Scotch constituency; but all such attempts failed. In England it is not very difficult to get a seat for a Minister of the Crown. A member of some safe borough is tempted to resign, for a consideration—not for money. Oh, no, we never mention that! Nor is the consideration ever directly mentioned, one would think, but rather implied, or in some way made understood, after the manner indicated by the old saw, "a nod is as good as a wink to a blind horse." But in Scotland all this is difficult, if not impossible. There are very few of these safe places. The constituencies in Scotland are more sensitive and jealous of interference with their rights than we are in England. Take Aberdeenshire, for example. This county was represented by a Mr. Leslie, a Conservative. In 1866 Mr. Leslie suddenly retired to let in Sir James Dalrymple Elphinstone, and it was thought that matters had been arranged all snug and right; but the sturdy Aberdeenshire farmers smelt a rat. "Sold, eh?" said they; "we shall see." And when polling-day came, Sir James discovered it was not all right, but all wrong; for, though he was backed by the great landed proprietors, he found himself beaten by Mr. Fordyce by more than two to one. Failing, then, Scotland, England was reached through, and at last an opening was found, a sort of rat-hole, through the small borough of Thetford. A Baring, a son of Lord Ashburton, represented Thetford, and suddenly he slipped out, and the Lord Advocate, the constituency sullenly consenting, suddenly slipped in. The Scotch Liberals chuckle over this strange fact, that the chief law officer of Scotland is obliged to an English Lord for a seat in the House; and there is a joke upon this matter. It is said that when the borough of Thetford was offered to him he was obliged to search for it on the map. However, he is now in Parliament, and made his debut some days ago, and it seems to us that we ought to say something by way of describing this new bird in our Parliamentary aviary.

HIS PHOTOGRAPH.

Mr. Gordon, the new Lord Advocate, is, then, Scotch all over—intensely Scotch. In form, figure, speech, temperament, manner, wholly Scotch. But there are, as all know, two sorts of Scotchmen—the dry, hard, logical, unimaginative, unpoetical Scotchman; and the poetic, imaginative, humorous, laughter-loving, jovial Scotchman—in short, the *perfidium genus* noticed, if we mistake not, above a thousand years ago. These two distinct currents cannot be always defined and traced. Sometimes they run into and blend with one another. Of the poetic, imaginative race, Burns, Christopher North, Walter Scott, Chalmers, and Carlyle are types; Carlyle and Chalmers, though, are, one would say, of rather a mixed race. If you want specimens of the dry, logical Scot, take down a volume of Scotch metaphysics, or a book of Scotch sermons, or go with us into the House of Commons, where there are Scotchmen whom we could name as frigid as ice, as hard as nails, and as dry as a faggot three years old; mere logical and arithmetical machines—men whom no pathos could move to tears, no wit or humour to laughter; and who, if they were compelled to read a poem, would ask, when they had laid it down, "What has it proved?" It is too early yet to decide exactly whether the Lord Advocate belongs to this or the mixed race; but he certainly does not, we should decidedly settle at once, belong to the poetic class. His speech in introducing the Scotch Reform Bill was, as everybody says, very well done. It was clear as the light of a polar sky, and as cold. And so was his speech on Monday night last, on the introduction of a bill to effect certain law reforms. He first leaned, loungingly, in the most ungainly manner on the table, and explained his bill in cold and passionless style. True, it was a dry subject, and some may think could not have been treated otherwise than in a dry style; but a man of genius can give life, and warmth, and colour to any subject. Gladstone can make figures sparkle like stars, and irradiate the merest financial statements with glowing colours. And Mr. Moncreiff, the late Lord Advocate, Scotchman though he is, would have introduced a reform bill much more impressively, and garbed it in a much more attractive style. But then Mr. Moncreiff is, in the main, of the other class. He is as clear as Mr. Gordon. Indeed, in logical clearness Mr. Moncreiff never was excelled; but then he is eloquent, and at times even fervid. But, as we have said, it is too early to "place" the Lord Advocate. We may, however, be sure that, though he may enlighten our minds, he will never excite our feelings nor enchant our ears.

MR. O'BRIEN COUNTED OUT.

What! a count out so early in the Session, and on a Government night, too! Yes; on Friday night week we had a count out, and it

was no accident. It was foreseen, deliberately planned, and successfully achieved; and we will tell our readers why. The Government had no business on the paper, except Supply, and that was only a formality. According to rule and custom, which govern Friday nights, Supply was on the paper. The Secretary of the Treasury did not intend to ask for money. Supply was on the paper to enable independent members to bring forward their grievances "on going into supply," and several independent members had notices of grievances. There was Mr. Goschen, who wished to call attention to the expenditure of the Metropolitan Board of Works. Mr. O'Brien intended to move for a Committee to consider the Irish Land question. Lord Arthur Clinton's resolutions were also on the paper, and there were likewise sundry other notices. The grand business of the night, though, was to be Mr. O'Brien's Committee. Now, this notice of Mr. O'Brien was, to the bulk of the House, exceedingly distasteful. It was thought to be an attempt to take the wind out of the sails of Mr. Maguire, who was formally to bring the Irish question before the House on Tuesday, and especially was it distasteful to the Government and to the Conservative party. Tuesday was to be the great day; then Mr. Maguire would speak of Ireland; and, what was more important, then the Government was to reveal its policy. "Why, therefore, this preliminary debate? It is useless—inconvenient." But Mr. O'Brien had the ground, and by no persuasion could he be made to relinquish it. "Very well, then; we must count him out." Accordingly, as the dinner hour approached, the Conservatives almost to a man slipped away; even the Treasury bench was well-nigh deserted; and at eight o'clock—hour fatal to so many ambitious legislators—just as O'Brien was about to rise, the signal was given; a few more members glided away, and the requisite forty not being there, Mr. O'Brien had to suppress and bottle up his effervescing, fizzing eloquence and depart with such patience as he could command. Of course, the Government did not appear as the promoters of this count; but there was not wanted evidence that, behind the Olympian cloud, some of the minor deities did quietly in the dark pull the wires.

THE IRISH DEBATE COMES TO GRIEF.

We come now to Tuesday, when, the destinies permitting, we were to have a great debate, the first great debate of the Session; for then Mr. Maguire, with his fervid eloquence, was to introduce specially to the notice of the House Irish discontents or malcontents, with their causes and their remedies, according to the wisdom given to him, Mr. Maguire; and then, also, her Majesty's Ministers were through their mouthpiece, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, to report to us their diagnosis of said discontents or malcontents, and the remedies which they, after due consideration of the case, meant to propose. Rumour said that these remedies would prove to be something new and startling, and, as coming from a Conservative Government, violent—something rather of a surgical than a medical character. No more mere anodynes were to be applied, but sharp surgery: so men whispered. No wonder, then, that we looked forward to this debate with interest and anxieties. But all this the Destinies did not permit, for just at the critical moment comes the Blind Fury with the abhorred shears, and slits the thin-spun life—not the natural, happily, but the official life—of our chief ruler, and all debate upon Irish discontents or malcontents, their causes and remedies, had to be inexorably postponed; and instead of sitting there into the small hours, at a quarter to five the House was adjourned and dispersed, and of that Tuesday night to which we expected to have to devote, at least, half a column, we have nothing to say, we have nothing to record, and we dare not prophesy.

Imperial Parliament.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The House sat for a quarter of an hour, and the only business transacted was the addition of Earl Russell to the Select Committee on the Promissory Oaths Bill of the Lord Chancellor.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

LOCAL TAXATION.

MR. GOSCHEN directed attention to the last report of the Metropolitan Board of Works, and to the continuous increase of the burdens laid, and proposed to be laid, for various purposes, in London and elsewhere, on the occupiers of rateable property. In a long and able speech, the right hon. gentleman criticised the administration and minutely analysed the financial accounts of the Board of Works. Their expenditure had gone on increasing year by year, until in 1866 it had amounted to the enormous sum of £1,970,000, and a total expenditure between that year and 1867 of nearly £11,000,000. Many of the works they had undertaken were of the most ambitious character; but, owing to the extent of the various local burdens, the resources for what were considered to be necessary improvements had been drawn upon until they had been overstrained, and the further progress of these improvements, in consequence of circumstances, that there should be an equalisation of rates over the metropolis; that the occupiers of rateable property should be relieved and a portion of their burdens placed on owners; and that an income tax should be levied for municipal purposes. With regard to the last-mentioned proposal, he admitted there would be a difficulty in local authorities levying an income tax; but he suggested that that might be avoided by making an arrangement with the Government, and giving them a penny income tax for the metropolis, which would produce upwards of a million, and which they could easily collect by the existing machinery, in exchange for the house duty, which now produced them about the same.

A debate, in which Colonel Hogg, Colonel Sykes, Mr. Ayrton, Mr. N. Grenville, Mr. H. Lewis, and Mr. Alderman Lawrence took part, was brought to a premature close by the House being counted out.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

STATE OF IRELAND.

The Marquis of CLANRICARDE directed attention to the question of land tenure in Ireland, and, having referred to the various schemes proposed on the subject, said the only hope of improving the land of Ireland was in the introduction of capital, which could alone be profitably employed by farming on a large scale. The measure, therefore, which he would recommend was to secure to the tenant a fair remuneration for his improvements, and deal fairly with the rights and interests of both landlords and occupiers. By adopting such a course they would establish a state of prosperity, and avoid laying the foundations of future distress and chronic agitation.

Lord ST. LEONARDS saw no necessity for fresh legislation, unless it could be shown that the Act of 1860, which appeared to be a most fair and business-like measure, had failed. If, after inquiry, it was found that that was the case, then they might apply a remedy.

After some observations from the Earl of Kimberley, The Earl of MALMESBURY, as the mouthpiece of the Government, said they did not oppose the introduction of the bill of the noble Marquis, but he recommended its promoter to refer it again to the same Committee which sat last year.

The Earl of Malmesbury having moved the second reading of the Habeas Corpus Suspension (Ireland) Act Continuance Bill, a debate arose in which Earl Russell, the Earl of Hardwicke, Earl Grey, the Duke of Richmond, the Earl of Ellenborough, and the Marquis of Westmeath took part. The bill was read the second time.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE SCOTCH REFORM BILL.

MR. MCLAREN gave notice that, on going into Committee on the Scotch Reform Bill, he should move a resolution to the effect that no arrangement would be satisfactory to that country which did not recognise its position as an integral portion of the empire, and which did not provide for an addition of fifteen members.

ORDERS OF THE DAY AND NEW BILLS.

The Public Departments (Extra Receipts) Bill was read the third time and passed. The Railways (Extension of Time) Bill was read the second time. Leave was given to bring in the following bills:—Mr. Ewart, a bill to introduce into this country the metric system of weights and measures; Mr. S. Cave, a bill to carry into effect a convention between her Majesty and the Emperor of the French concerning the fisheries in the seas adjoining the British islands and France, and to amend the laws relating to British sea fisheries; Lord J. Manners, a bill to further continue and appropriate the London coal and wine duties; the Lord Advocate, a bill to amend the procedure in the Court of Session and the judicial arrangements in the superior courts of Scotland; and a bill to amend the procedure in the Court of Judiciary in Scotland.

On the motion of Mr. Ayrton, it was resolved that all bills relating to gas companies in the metropolis be referred to a Select Committee of ten members, five to be nominated by the committee of selection.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE RESIGNATION OF THE EARL OF DERBY.

LORD MALMESBURY formally announced that the state of the Earl of Derby's health had necessitated his resignation of the Premiership; that Mr. Disraeli had received the commands of the Queen to form a Ministry, and that the right hon. gentleman was now occupied in the task. The noble Earl then moved the adjournment of the House until Thursday at two o'clock, for the third reading of the Suspension of the Habeas Corpus (Ireland) Act Continuance Bill, and intimated that he should then ask their Lordships to assemble again on Friday to hear the Royal assent given to that bill, but at neither sitting would any other business be done.

Earl RUSSELL had heard with regret the announcement just made, but expressed an earnest hope that, although the state of the Earl of Derby's health might forbid his undertaking the active duties and responsibilities of office, their Lordships would soon see him again amongst them, contributing to their debates and giving the House and the country the benefit of his great experience and undoubted talent.

The Habeas Corpus Suspension (Ireland) Bill was passed through Committee, and their Lordships adjourned until Thursday at two o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE EARL OF DERBY'S RESIGNATION.

Several notices of motion having been given, Lord STANLEY rose, in the midst of profound silence, and announced that the Earl of Derby, in consequence of the state of his health, which, though improving, was still such as to render absolute repose from business necessary for a considerable time to come, had felt it his duty to tender to the Queen his resignation of the office which he held as Premier, and that her Majesty had been graciously pleased to accept his resignation. He further announced that, by her Majesty's commands, the Chancellor of the Exchequer was then engaged in the formation of a Ministry. Under these circumstances, following the usual custom, he ventured to suggest the expediency of an adjournment until such time as the necessary arrangements should have been completed. The noble Lord also expressed his regret, and that of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, that any obstacle should be interposed to delay the debate on the state of Ireland, which had been set down for that evening. He then moved that the House at its rising should adjourn till Friday.

MR. GLADSTONE said the proposal to adjourn was dictated by the propriety of the case. But with reference to the special cause which the noble Lord had by a singular destiny been called upon to announce, he could not help expressing for himself what he was sure would be the universal sentiment, his regret that a career so long, so active, and in so many respects so distinguished and remarkable, as that of the noble Lord's father, should have been brought to a close by the failure of his bodily health and strength.

MR. MAGUIRE, upon whose motion the debate alluded to was to have been raised, concurred in the proposed adjournment; but added the expression of a hope that the Government would afford him facilities for bringing forward his motion at the earliest opportunity.

Lord STANLEY assured the hon. member of the sincere desire of the Government that the great subject to which he referred should be fully and fairly discussed.

The motion for the adjournment having been agreed to, the House rose at twenty minutes to five o'clock.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

On the motion of the Duke of RICHMOND, the Habeas Corpus Suspension (Ireland) Act Continuance Bill was read the third time and passed. The passing of the above bill was the only public business which the House met to transact.

THE MIDLAND RAILWAY TERMINUS.

THE following particulars in addition to the information we have already published concerning the new Midland Railway terminus in London will be interesting:—

The whole of the station platform is supported on cast-iron columns, placed at intervals of 14 ft. 8 in. apart, on piers of brickwork, which are carried down to a solid foundation. On these columns are fixed rows of wrought-iron main girders, running across the building, and connecting the feet of the springers of the large arches that span the building; to the main girders a series of cross girders are firmly riveted, and to the upper flanges of the main and cross girders buckle-plates, known as Mallet's patent, are fastened; the whole forming a compact and strong flooring for supporting the weight of the permanent way, roads, and platforms. The cellars thus formed will, it is expected, prove a valuable place for the deposit of ale and other goods.

The platform or substructure above described is now used for carrying the large temporary timber stage shown in the Engraving we published last week. This stage is made in three sections—a centre portion and two side wings. Each section is fitted with wheels and axles, longitudinal sleepers and rails being laid down, so as to enable it to travel the whole length of the station. Upon this stage the different pieces of the arch forming the roof are erected, the two sides being hoisted simultaneously. The arch, when keyed in, is firmly riveted up, and purlins, intermediate ribs, and wind ties are then fitted in position and secured.

After one bay of roofing is completed the stage is moved into a position suitable for the erection of another bay, and this method will be pursued until the whole roof is completed. The two wings of the stage are first moved, and then the centre or main portion. The movement is effected by men applying crowbars to the different wheels.

The structure forming the roof is composed of wrought-iron main ribs of lattice-work, placed 29 ft. 4 in. apart, centre to centre; between the main ribs are fixed framed purlins, and on these solid intermediate ribs are placed every 7 ft. 4 in., centre to centre; the whole is then tied together by wind ties, to prevent distortion of form by wind or rough weather. The springers, on which the lattice portion is fixed, are made of strong plate-iron firmly bolted down and beaded to the brickwork of the side walls. One half of the roof will be covered in with glass and the other half with slates on boarding.

The following details of measurement will give an idea of the enormous size of the works we have attempted to describe. The clear span of arch is 240 ft.; height from platform level to soffit at crown of arch, 96 ft.; total height from rail level to top of crown of arch, 105 ft.; length of station, nearly 700 ft.; and the area to be covered in will be about 175,000 ft. superficial measurement.

The contractors for the ironwork are the Butterley Company, of Derbyshire; and those for the earth and brick work, Messrs. Waring Brothers. The whole of the works are designed by W. H. Barlow, Esq., F.R.S., C.E., engineer-in-chief, and are being carried out under the superintendence of Mr. F. Campion, resident engineer, and Mr. W. M. Grier, assistant engineer.

STATE OF IRELAND.—At a banquet given by the Lord Mayor of Dublin on Tuesday evening the Lord Lieutenant, responding to the toast "The Prosperity of Ireland," took an encouraging view of its condition. He held out hopes of a better railway system, as the result of the commission. There was a decrease of 19,000 in emigration last year, and an expected further decrease this year. He referred to the disturbances in Cork as exceptional, and believed three fourths of the country sound. The attacks on martello towers were like Don Quixote's battle with windmills. He remarked that the English people were disposed to discriminate between the perpetrators of outrages and the Irish people, and to consider their grievances, and to sympathise as far as possible. He noticed the progress of Dublin. Its tonnage had increased from 880,000 in 1857 to 1,436,000 in 1867, and the revenue from £26,000 to £44,000. He also intimated the desire of Government to give more liberal and special encouragement to the Irish.

THE CRYSTAL PALACE.—The tropical department of the Crystal Palace, which was burnt down in the end of the year 1866, has been partly restored; and though we cannot hope, for a long time, at least, that all the rare and magnificent exotics which, by their beauty and luxuriance, added so much to the decorative aspect of that section of the building will be replaced, every exertion is being made by the management to compensate visitors for the loss of those features in the department which it is impossible to renew. The part destroyed ends in a line drawn from the northern end of the Alhambra to the corresponding point of the Byzantine court. Both these courts are still in ruins. The arabesque dome of the Alhambra was not injured in any perceptible degree by the fire, so that the rebuilding of the miniature palace will not occupy much time. The Montfountain stands in the centre of the department as now constituted, and the circular basins around it are filled with beautiful ferns and flowering plants. The northern end is occupied by an organ and by the buffet of Messrs. Bertram and Roberts. At present, the restoration of the remainder of the department is not contemplated. The space which intervenes between the northern end of the building and the northern tower is, we understand, to be laid out in flower-beds and rockeries in picturesque design, so that those who may not be strong enough to make their way down to the lower grounds may enjoy similar pleasures on the upper terraces.

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TRADES UNION RULES AND TRADES UNIONISTS' PRACTICES.

SOME trades unionists, it seems, are dissatisfied with the manner in which their case was laid before Mr. Gladstone last week by Mr. Potter and his fellow-delegates; and not much wonder, for the conference was altogether a very hollow affair—a mere case of “much cry and little wool.” Great things were promised. Trades unions were to be completely vindicated and fully rehabilitated in public estimation. Mr. Gladstone was to be convinced that he had been entirely wrong in his utterances at Oldham; he was to be converted, and made to recant his errors. But nothing of all this was achieved at the conference. Mr. Gladstone did not recant; and trades unions stand very much in the same position as before. In fact, there was no real discussion, no thorough ventilation of the subject, no new arguments were advanced, and no novel feature was exhibited; except the facts that the unionists are very anxious just now to stand well in public opinion, and are not disinclined to practise a little *supplicatio veri* in order to attain that end. The talk was all of rules—not a word was said about practices. Now this was a mere half stating of the case, for in this matter practice is of infinitely greater moment than rule. It is easy to organise an association with most unexceptionable rules. The unionists, or any other body, may lay down as the basis of their organisation the golden rule of “Do unto your neighbour as you would wish your neighbour to do unto you,” and then act in direct opposition to that law. Rules are mere professions; and it is by their practices, not their professions, that men and organisations are to be judged. Mr. Potter and his colleagues may prove themselves to be the mildest-mannered men that ever governed a trades union, managed a strike, and did not encourage “picketing,” intimidation, “rattening,” and outrage, and yet trades unionists and their practices be no whit vindicated; and, as the practices of members of the unions were carefully kept out of view by the deputation that waited upon Mr. Gladstone, we say that the discussion was not genuine—it was a mere dress parade, a bout at boxing with the gloves on, a fencing-match with carefully-buttoned foils.

Mr. Gladstone himself handled the subject much too gingerly. He carefully abstained from mentioning anything that might be disagreeable to his visitors. That was the part of a courteous host, but not the course of a keen debater or searcher after truth; and it was only natural, and good policy to boot, for the deputation to follow so convenient an example of reticence. Did we not know that Mr. Potter at all events is no dunce—that he is perfectly aware of what he is about when he speaks on such an occasion and in such a cause, and knows that the least said is the better—we might be tempted to think that, as some trades' rules are framed for the benefit of dunces, the deputation well represented their constituents. Some points, however, were advanced which it may be worth while to consider even yet, seeing that the subject is still a living one, and that some unionists are of opinion that their case did not receive full justice at the hands of the deputation—that, in fact, it was put too mildly—an opinion in which we entirely coincide, though for very different reasons.

One great point insisted on by the deputation was the limitation of apprentices; and, though this practice was said not to be universal among the unionists, it was uniformly advocated by the deputation, who alleged that restriction of the number of apprentices produced better workmen, secured better wages, and thereby benefited not only the particular trade, but the public at large. Now this is just repeating the old protectionist nostrum that monopoly is good for monopolists, and, through them, for the public. But the statements of one member of the deputation subverted those of another. Mr. Leicester said the glassblowers rigidly restricted apprentices, and enjoyed good wages in consequence. Mr. Lawrence said the tailors did not fix any limits as to apprentices, and in consequence the tailoring trade was inundated with hands and the pay miserably low. Now, why is this so? Simply because the trades in which restriction exists force lads to go into those that are open. They have no choice. They must live by work, and they must work where and at what trades they are permitted. Leave the whole matter free, and the influx of new hands into each trade would adjust itself to the demand for their services. But suppose restriction were adopted in every trade, and that population continually increased faster than our industrial occupations could absorb it—an assumption indispensable to the plea for limitation, whether the fact be so or not—the result would inevitably be either that the restrictive rules would have to give way, or that numbers of

youths would find no opening for their exertions, and would be left without any means of livelihood. If the rule be good, it should be carried out universally; in which case we should have a body of high-paid workmen in employment, and another with no trade, no work, no means of living. And what right has one portion of mankind to condemn another to such a fate? Then said Mr. Leicester, “We consider that those who spend years in learning a trade have a right to live by it.” But there is a prior right and a higher law than this: the prior right, namely, of every human being to live by his or her labour; and the higher law, that everyone shall be free to labour at whatsoever trade, and where, with whom, and for what remuneration he or she pleases. That right and that law are violated wherever restrictions are imposed.

Then it was asserted that inferior workmen injured men of superior skill. Now, this statement is at variance with all experience, which proves that the skilful minority have always the advantage and are preferred to the unskilful herd. The good, steady, diligent workman in whatever walk of life, is invariably preferred before the idle and incompetent. The best work and the highest wage are always at his command. He is the first to be employed, the last to be discharged. So that really skilful workmen, instead of suffering, actually gain by contact and competition with their less capable compeers. Nor need it be feared that inferior men will pull down superior ones to their own level of remuneration, because where real excellence is wanted it will always command its value; and if excellence is not wanted, there is no reason why it should be paid for. Take, as an example, one case instanced by Mr. Gladstone. The plasterers of Liverpool object to unskilled labourers washing lime, and insist that it shall be done by trained workmen. Now, as lime-washing does not require any special skill, but may be fittingly performed by ordinary labourers, it is waste of power to employ superior, high-paid workmen in such a task. The nature of the work should be allowed to regulate the degree of skill bestowed upon its execution; and the degree of skill required should govern the rate of remuneration. As it is proverbially absurd to take a razor to work with in a stone-quarry, so it is equally absurd to employ a skilled artisan in performing the task of a navvy.

Another point with the deputation was the propriety of fixing a minimum rate of wages, on the ground that workmen were, as a body, of average capacity, and should therefore receive an average scale of wages. But how is the average wage for the average workman to be fixed, except by the operation of the law of supply and demand in an open market? The unionists fix upon a certain sum, and say that is the average daily value of all workmen in a given trade. But how do they prove that their minimum is the minimum rate? Is it not quite as likely, and, indeed, much more so, that the scale fixed upon is the maximum as that it is the minimum? Workmen, being the recipients of wages, are not in all circumstances the sole—or even, perhaps, the best—judges of what they are worth. As there must always be two to a bargain-making, so employers—or capitalists, as the unionists prefer to call them—should be permitted to exercise a voice in fixing the rate; and this, again, will be best accomplished in a free and open market. Employers, Mr. Potter says, are free to pay extra workmen extra wages. True; but if the scale for the worst be fixed at the value of the best—and unionists discourage all means of testing this point—where is the margin for rewarding excellence?

Then, says the unionist, unless there is a fixed scale of remuneration, wages will fluctuate, the value of labour will rise and fall, according to the state of the market—will, in short, like any common article of barter, such as groceries, provisions, stocks, and so on, be subject to the laws of supply and demand. And why not? Labour is a marketable commodity, like tea, or sugar, or beef, or corn; it is a thing that is bought and sold, and its value must be governed by the conditions that govern the value of other exchangeable commodities. It is entitled to, and can obtain, no immunity from the operation of the ordinary laws of commerce. It must be cheap or dear according as it is plentiful or scarce—as it is in request or the reverse. And any attempts to forestall or “rig the market,” however bolstered up, must ultimately result in failure; and, like the system adopted by the unions of buying off competition by subsidising idle hands, must be costly whilst in operation.

The only other point to which we can advert at present is as to whether union men object to working along with non-unionists. Mr. Potter says there is no rule on the subject; but we know that unionists *do*, in fact, object to this association. Cases of the sort are every day occurring, rule or no rule. And this is a matter on which the deputation to Mr. Gladstone observed a very discreet reticence. They paraded trades union rules—or, rather, the non-existence of rules—on the point; but they said not a word about trades unionists' practices. The deputation may have been wise in so acting; but they cannot expect the public to be content with their mode of putting the case. As we have said, men are to be judged by their acts, not by their professions; and, till trades unionists can prove that they never in practice violate the freedom of others and never do anything but according to rule, we must take leave to judge them by their deeds and not by their words, by their practices and not by their professions. We admit their right to combine for their own protection; but we claim for others the right to stand aloof from combinations, and to be free to earn their bread by the sweat of their brow,

and in peace, notwithstanding. When trades unionists permit like freedom to others as that they claim for themselves, we will be content to accept their rules as infallible exponents of their views; but not till then.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

THE QUEEN'S return to Windsor is heralded by the usual announcement from the Lord Chamberlain of the closing of the state apartments, which will take place on and after Wednesday next till further notice.

PRINCE LEOPOLD'S MEDICAL ATTENDANTS finding that his Royal Highness is deriving much benefit from the sea air, the Queen has deferred her departure for Windsor from the 28th inst. to March 3. The Prince, we are happy to say, is rapidly recovering his wonted health.

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE OF WALES has subscribed £52 10s. to the fund which is being raised in Norwich in connection with the meeting in that city of the British Association for the Advancement of Science.

PRESIDENT JOHNSON, in a late message to Congress, in alluding to his threatened impeachment, said:—“In such a case the President must take the high responsibilities of his office, and save the life of the nation at all hazards.”

MR. BERESFORD HOPE has been returned for Cambridge University, the numbers polled being:—Mr. Beresford Hope, 1931; Mr. Cleasby, Q.C., 1400; majority for Hope, 531.

MR. LAURENCE OLIPHANT is about formally to announce his intention not to offer himself again for the representation of the Stirling burghs, the cause of his retirement being bad health.

THE INCOME OF GREENWICH HOSPITAL amounted to £155,532 18s. 9d. in the years 1866-7.

A PICTURE attributed to Murillo has just been discovered in the Church of Villaharta, in the province of Cordova.

MR. HANNEN, of the Home Circuit, has been appointed to the seat in the Queen's Bench vacant by the death of Sir W. Stree. The office of Junior Counsel for the Crown, made vacant by the appointment of Mr. Hannen, has been given to Mr. T. D. Archibald, of the Home Circuit.

A GIRL AT PESTH, in Hungary, has confessed that she and her father, during the last ten years, have committed sixteen murders for purposes of plunder. The remains of all their victims have been found.

A MEMORIAL has been presented to the authorities at Oxford, from the Taunton local examination centre, praying that the examinations may be extended to girls. The memorialists, for whom Lord Taunton signs as chairman, refer to the success which has attended the examination of girls at Cambridge as a justification of their demand.

TALLEYRAND stipulated in his will that thirty years should elapse after his death before his memoirs were published. That period will have elapsed in a few months, and the memoirs will at once be issued.

MR. THOMAS HUGHES, M.P., has grievously vexed the Lambeth shopkeepers by his strenuous advocacy of co-operation, and a combination is about to be entered into to prevent his re-election. Mr. Hughes's Sunday Trading Bill is also affording much food for grumbling to many of the electors and (at present) non-electors.

A FRENCH PROVINCIAL NEWSPAPER thus announces the conviction and sentence of Mr. Pigott and Mr. Sullivan, the Irish journalists:—“Two Fenian leaders have just been sentenced at Dublin—Irishman to one year, and Weekly News to six months' imprisonment.”

THE GREAT EASTERN RAILWAY COMPANY state that the augmented revenue will enable them to discharge the interest on all debentures and preference stocks, and leave a balance, which, with diminishing working expenses and extended traffic, justifies the hope of an early dividend to ordinary shareholders.

A YOUTH NAMED ELKIN, the son of a Liverpool milkman, hanged himself in his bed-room, on Sunday night, in consequence, as is supposed, of his father having scolded him for some misdemeanour and ordered him to bed. His father cut him down, but did not send for either a doctor or a policeman; and, when asked the reason of his conduct, said he had his crows to attend to.

THE AMOUNT OF TRUST FUNDS held by the official trustees of charitable funds appointed under the Charitable Trusts Act continues to increase. At the close of last year the amount had reached £2,997,285 Government stock, besides £728 Bank stock, £12,800 in railway securities, £3000 in other securities, and £3860 balance of cash in hand.

THE NUMBER OF DOGS IN MOSCOW has increased so greatly, and their depredations and attacks have become so frequent, that the municipal council has imposed a tax upon them of a rouble (4s.) a head, payable by their owners. Such animals as are not claimed and paid for are to be destroyed.

AGNES ELIZABETH, daughter of Colonel Jones, of Fahan, near London-derry, aged thirty-four, lady superintendent of the Nightingale nurses and probationers at the Liverpool Workhouse hospital, died, last week, from typhus fever, brought on by her exertions and anxiety in nursing the sick. She was remarkable for her ability and self-sacrificing Christian spirit.

THE FAMILY OF THOMAS CHATTERTON, who was recently shot through the neck in Clerkenwell by “mad Needal,” the solicitor's clerk, is in a most distressed condition. The magistrate at Clerkenwell Police Court, on Monday, sent Mrs. Chatterton, who is near her confinement, a donation of 10s. which he had received on her behalf.

A BOY thirteen years of age, named Victor Verbeyst, hanged himself a few days since in his father's house at Islington. It was his father's opinion that he had been simply trying an experiment, and that he had no intention to commit suicide; but the jury insisted on believing that he was insane, and that he had been driven mad by reading exciting books. His father admitted he was fond of sensational literature.

IN AN ANCIENT SAXON LAW it is enacted:—“Albeit, as often as leap years doth occur, the woman holdeth prerogative over the menne in matter of courtship, love, and matrimonne; so that when the lady propoeth it shall not be lawful for menne to say her nae, but shall receive her proposal in all good courtship.”

THE TRINITY COLLEGE (Dublin) petition, in favour of preserving its “Protestant Constitution unimpaired,” has been signed by 17 noblemen and noblemen's sons, 31 baronets and knights, 17 Queen's counsel, 113 lieutenants and deputy lieutenants, 767 magistrates, 345 physicians, and 320 barristers. The clerical signatures number 2079.

AT A VILLAGE NEAR BRISTOL, the other Sunday evening, the minister of the chapel preached an unusually long sermon, when, to the great surprise of all present, an elderly macon, sitting in the body of the chapel, called out in a clear shrill voice, “Cut it short, Mr. —; it only wants five minutes to eight.” This was a stopper, and the minister at once gave out the doxology.

A NEW RIFLE, superior to any of those recently invented, was submitted to the Emperor Francis Joseph on his arrival at Pesth. The inventor is a Hungarian, M. Mersits de Roob. This weapon, a breech-loader, is said to be of very simple construction. It is charged by two motions, so that thirty shots can be fired in a minute. The envelope of the cartridge costs only 4c., instead of 8c., the price of those recently adopted for the Austrian army.

A FIRE TOOK PLACE on Sunday morning in Marylebone, by which a score of houses and shops were destroyed. The fire broke out in Portman Market in a shoe-shop, and spread with great rapidity from shop to shop, so that in less than an hour the whole pile was in flames. The houses destroyed were occupied by poor people, who have in most cases lost all the property they possessed. It is not known how the fire was caused.

THE DEATH OF MR. JOHN HERAPATH has been announced. It occurred a few days after the decease of Mr. William Herapath, of Bristol, the celebrated analytical chemist, first cousin to Mr. John Herapath. The latter gentleman was well known as the proprietor of Herapath's Railway Journal and as author of “Mathematical Physics.”

THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES at Berlin has recently been engaged in discussing a petition signed by several Anabaptists, praying that the provisions of the federal law for the army should not be applied to the Mennonites. The principles of this sect interdict them from accepting any military duty.

AN INTELLIGENT-LOOKING BOY, thirteen years of age, attended at the Plymouth Guildhall on Monday, and sought from the Bench protection from his mother, who, he said, was anxious to get rid of him. He gave a circumstantial account of attempts made by her to hang and poison him. After a long preliminary inquiry, it was decided that proceedings should be taken against the mother.

COURTS-MARTIAL.—A Royal Commission has been appointed to inquire into the system of courts-martial, their powers and practice, and into the nature of military punishments generally; the Commissioners being instructed to suggest such improvements as they may think desirable. The announcement will be satisfactory to the public. The subject is one to which Sir John Pakington has been giving much attention lately; and he has had the valuable assistance of Mr. Mowbray, the Judge Advocate-General, whose discretion and intelligence will no doubt have some influence in future legislation. The Commissioners, even though they are men conversant with the particular branch of our law and practice, will, we are convinced, be struck with surprise when they have but marshalled the known facts, so absurd and mischievous is the actual condition of things. The complexity of the task, indeed, as well as its importance, demands efficient hands; and, although we are not authorised to give the names, we are not without grounds for believing that the commission will be generally accounted a “strong” one.



THE FIRE AT THE PRINTING WORKS OF THE ABBÉ MIGNE, AT PARIS.

FIRE AT THE PRINTING-WORKS OF THE ABBÉ
MIGNE, PARIS.

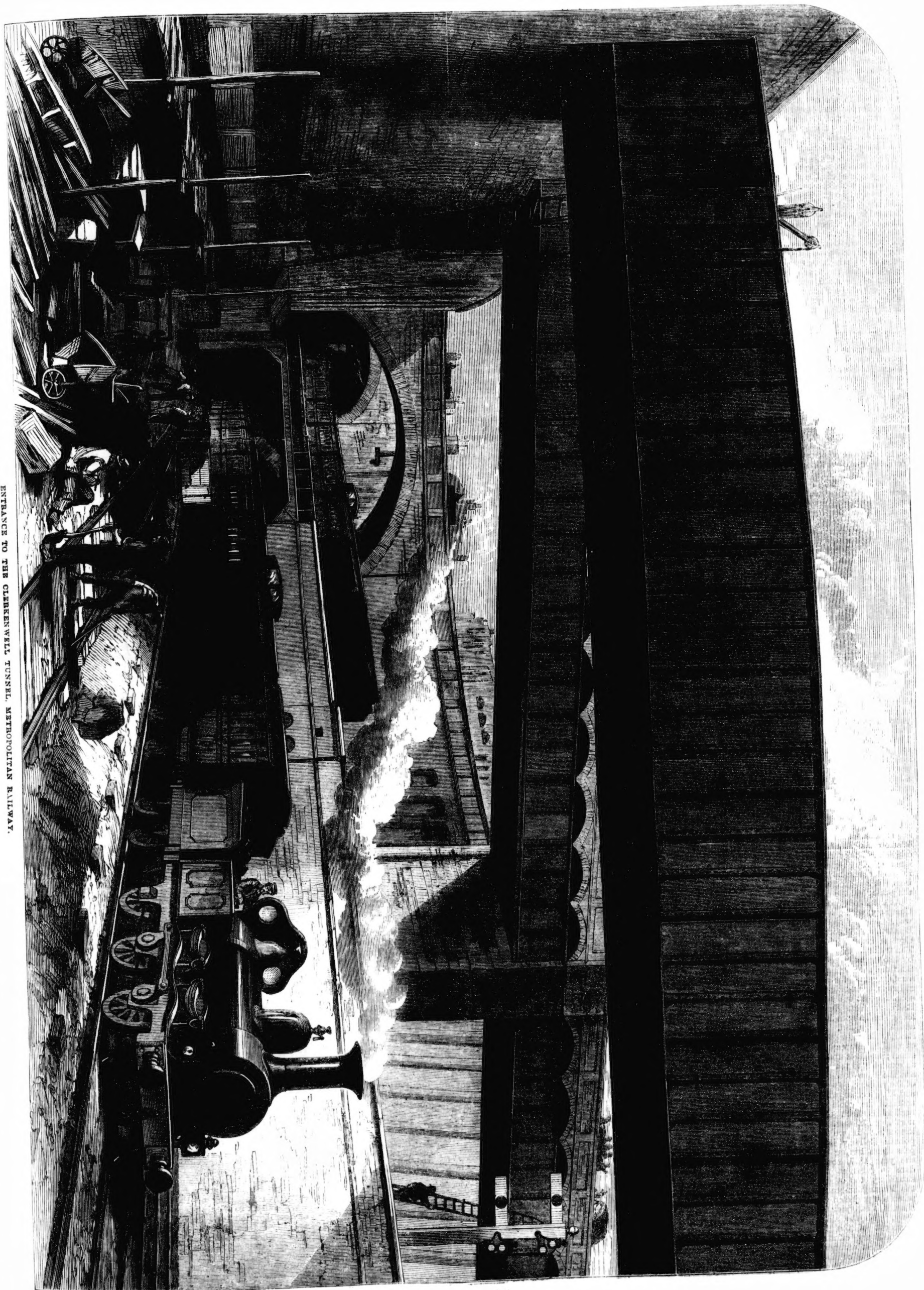
OUR Engraving represents the scene of a calamity which has thrown a large number of Parisian workmen out of employment,

and has destroyed one of the most important printing establishments in the city, with a loss of property estimated at twelve millions of francs. The printing-office in the Chaussée du Maine was founded by the Abbé Migne, thirty-five years ago, when he started with the

intention of reprinting in a modern form all that had been written in defence of the Church. He has been faithful to this gigantic task as far as his means would extend, and the reinstitution of the whole Catholic theological literature made enormous progress under



JUNCTION OF THE GREAT NORTHERN, MIDLAND, AND METROPOLITAN RAILWAYS AT KING'S-CROSS.



ENTRANCE TO THE CLEKENWELL TUNNEL, METROPOLITAN RAILWAY.

his direction. He has already produced, in modern editions, "La Patrologie," comprising the works of all the Fathers of the Church, and forming altogether 391 volumes, printed in double columns (the last volume of this work was in the press at the time of the breaking out of the fire); "L'Encyclopédie Théologique," consisting of 171 volumes, large folio, of which only two volumes remained to print in order to complete the work; and "La Collection Universelle," a miscellaneous edition of various writers and orators of the Church, filling 200 volumes, of which the hundredth was in the press.

The Catholic library of the Abbé Migon therefore comprehends 664 quarto volumes, of which only four volumes remained to be published; and this immense collection of big books, together with the entire printing establishment, became the prey of the flames on the night of the 12th inst. The works that had been printed and published may easily be reprinted; but an irreparable loss has been sustained in the destruction of the original manuscripts, of which the collection was, of course, unique, and the numerous and valuable electrotypes, which were melted in glistening waves of metal during the intensity of the conflagration. There were numerous other valuable objects of art, which have been consumed, for the Abbé had added to his collection examples of church pictures, sculpture, basso-reliefs, organs, and other works of ecclesiastical decoration. The efforts of the workpeople were totally ineffectual in checking the progress of the flames, and our engraving represents the appearance of the scene of destruction after the fire had done its dreadful work. The masses of electrotypes, to the number of 500,000, which had been ranged in piles, were entirely melted and forced into great irregular blocks of metal of strange and eccentric shapes. Machines, bars of iron, the wrecks of printing-presses, charred beams, and cases are heaped together amidst vast piles of burnt paper, which again burst into flame on the morning after the fire, the moment an attempt was made to remove it. Of the workshops, which were filled with inflammable materials, nothing remains but the four scorched and blackened walls. The apartments of the Abbé, however, have been preserved, and with them a very valuable collection of works of art which had been deposited there. The estimated loss is not covered by the insurance, which is only for 6,000,000*fr.*

THE METROPOLITAN RAILWAY: NEW WORKS.

SOME works of a most important nature have recently been completed on the Metropolitan Railway, between King's-cross and Farringdon-road stations. These works include the "widening" and other alterations, intended to accommodate the traffic of the Great Northern, the Midland, and the Metropolitan lines, as well as to complete the connection between these and the London, Chatham, and Dover Company's line. The communication with the Great Northern is now perfect, and has been in operation some weeks. That with the Midland is not yet completed, the Metropolitan company being still engaged in constructing a tunnel to the Midland terminus at St. Pancras. Its level is considerably below the station; so the Midland company will carry the line beneath its terminus and form a junction with its main line at Camden Town. All traffic to and from the Midland will therefore pass on to or from the Metropolitan line at King's-cross. For this accommodation the Midland company is to pay to the Metropolitan £14,000 a year. The communication between the King's-cross station of the Metropolitan line and the Great Northern Railway terminus has also been recently improved and perfected. At King's-cross the new or widened line commences on the east side of the station. A capacious platform, 300 ft. in length, with means of exit to the Pentonville-road, has been constructed on the north side of the line. The platform is provided with signal-box and telegraphic instruments for communicating with the different railways. From the side of the station next Pentonville-road two lines of mixed gauge, with steel rails, have been laid right away along the auxiliary line to Farringdon-street, thus giving the Metropolitan Railway four lines of rail between King's-cross and the above station. The covered way of arched brickwork begins soon after leaving King's-cross, and runs side by side with the old line. The line is about 28 ft. 6 in. wide, the height of the covered way and tunnelling varying from 16 ft. 6 in. to 19 ft. It passes beneath Britannia-street, Charlotte-street, Swinton-street, Acton-street, and Frederick-street, and parallel with the Bagnigge-wells-road. About 300 yards from the King's-cross box there is one of Saxby's distance-signals in the middle of the roadway in the tunnel, and near Granville-square there is a wide opening for another signal-box. The most peculiar feature of the line is that at no point is daylight lost sight of—a fact which, together with the shafts in the roof of the tunnel and covered way, will do much towards providing excellent ventilation. It is at the Clerkenwell end of the auxiliary line that the greatest difficulties had to be surmounted. The mouth of the new tunnel is much deeper than the old one, the rails of the widened way lying 15 ft. lower than the other. The new line had, therefore, to be carried beneath the old one, in order that the trains might enter the yard at Farringdon-street; and this was safely managed by underpinning the old route, and completing the work without stopping the enormous traffic for a single day. From the mouth of the new tunnel to the Farringdon-street station there is, of course, a great rise, the incline being about 1 in 40 to the part of the station used by the Great Northern trains. By the bridge near the Clerkenwell Sessions House there is an engine which pumps the surface water from the line into the drains above. The Great Western Railway Company are to have the space occupied by the original Farringdon-street terminus for a goods dépôt. The new line from King's-cross to Farringdon-street is about a mile in length, its construction having cost about £200,000, irrespective of what has been laid out in the purchase of such property as was required for the passage of the railway.

At the Farringdon-road station, the London, Chatham, and Dover Company, with its suburban line, the "Metropolitan Extension Railway," passing round, from the Victoria terminus, by Clapham, Brixton, and Walworth, to Ludgate-hill, including its branch to the Crystal Palace, likewise forms a junction with the Metropolitan. The traffic at this point will be greatly increased before many months by two approaching events. The first will be the completion of Smithfield New Market, with lines of communication, or working arrangements, for access to this market from each of the main railways, including the South-Western and the South-Eastern. The second event will be the construction of the "Metropolitan District Railway," from Kensington and Brompton to Piccadilly, and thence along the Thames Embankment to Blackfriars, and to Cannon-street and East London. At the same time, the "Metropolitan Railway" itself, which now proceeds as far as Moorgate-street, will shortly be carried farther east, through the heart of the City to Liverpool-street; and it is even contemplated, at some more favourable time, to extend it to the Blackwall Railway station at Fenchurch-street, and thence to Tower-hill. It is obvious that the Clerkenwell portion of the railway, as we may call it, the mile between Farringdon-road and King's-cross, will become the great central artery for the internal traffic of the whole metropolis, as well as the common link of connection between the great national railways, diverging to the north, south, east, and west of London, and traversing the entire kingdom. If we consider now that the traffic of the Metropolitan Railway is already enormous, more than 23,000,000 of passengers having been conveyed by it in the twelve months of the year 1867, sometimes 100,000 in one day, we shall hardly dare to guess at the immense amount of travelling, local or subsidiary to other lines, which is likely to pass through the Farringdon-road and King's-cross stations in 1869 or 1870, when the projected "inner circle" may be completed. In the mean time, it is but just to observe that the Metropolitan Railway Company, with the aid of their chief engineer, Mr. John Fowler, President of the Institution of Civil Engineers, have made extraordinary efforts to prepare for the accommodation of the greatest number of trains, under so many different management. One of their principal works during the last twelve months has been the widening or doubling of the Clerkenwell section, which has involved the construction of a second tunnel, alongside the former tunnel, from King's-cross to Ray-street, just above the

Clerkenwell Sessions House. This has been attended with greater difficulties even than those that beset the building of the original tunnel; for, in addition to diverting the course of sewers and water-mains and the shifting of gas-tubes, the new line necessitated the pulling down and rebuilding of portions of the old or main line.

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

ON Tuesday it was announced to both Houses that Lord Derby had resigned. I suspect, indeed I believe, that this coming event had cast its shadow before so long ago as Friday in last week; and hence the anxiety of the Government to get rid of Mr. O'Beirne's Irish motion by a count-out. Government officials some years ago used often to promote counts. I have seen in my time the Government whips creeping along the benches and persuading the members to leave the House. But of late they have kept clear of all attempts thus summarily to get rid of the House. But on Friday week it was plain to all that they were at work, and I suspect that they took this bold course because the resignation of Lord Derby was known to be imminent.

And now, what next?—and next? Lord Derby's resignation certainly involves more than most people imagine. Outsiders probably think that it involves only the substitution of Disraeli for Derby. The Chancellor of the Exchequer, they say, can be First Lord of the Treasury, as well as Chancellor of the Exchequer, and then all will go on as before. But it is not so. Disraeli, I venture to say, though such a junction may be justified by precedent, will not—perhaps I might say will not be permitted to—take this course. He, if he can form a Government, will, it is now certain, be First Lord; but who will be Chancellor of the Exchequer? I will not speculate upon this question, as perhaps all will be known before this contribution of mine shall appear in print. Whilst I am writing the air is full of rumours, and opinions are plentiful as blackberries. There is, however, one opinion very strong and prominent—to wit, the opinion that Disraeli will find it difficult to form a Government; and that, if he should patch up one, it will not be long-lived. Take these two straws as showing which way the current sets. Lord Malmesbury announced to the Lords that her Majesty had given permission to the Chancellor of the Exchequer to form a Government, if possible. Did he doubt the possibility, then? I think he did; and I believe that many other people have the same doubts. Here is another straw. "Shall I," said a Liberal member to a Cabinet Minister, on Tuesday, "postpone my little bill till next week?" "Better postpone it," said the Cabinet Minister, "till after Easter, and then you may move it from these benches." The "if possible" might have been meaningless; Lord Malmesbury never was discreet. The prophecy may have been a joke; but, be this as it may, I have no doubt that Disraeli will find his Cabinet-making no easy work.

Rumour says that Disraeli has upon the anvil a very startling measure, or two measures, one to settle the Irish land question, the other for the Irish Church; and men say that under the sanction of Lord Derby's Government he hoped to keep the Cabinet together and carry these bills, but that now he must give up the bills or break up his Cabinet; and this, I think, is very probably true. His colleagues kicked against the Reform Bill, and, but for the influence and skill of Lord Derby, they would have upset the coach last year; but our most sagacious politicians think that even with Lord Derby's sanction an attempt to legislate, as Disraeli would wish, upon the Irish Church and land, would produce a fatal revolt; and they say that, without Lord Derby's sanction as Prime Minister, if Disraeli touch these questions boldly he will be promptly deserted. Which will he do, then? Give up his bills, or his place? One would say he will sacrifice his bills; albeit, he must know that he cannot steer clear of these Irish rocks without daring seamanship, and that with timid steering his Government must before long strike and go down.

One other resource, though, occurs to me. He may adopt the old policy of delay, and I think successfully. There is much to be done this Session. The Irish and Scotch Reform Bills must be passed; the Boundary Bill likewise. Then we have not yet got a vote of Supply. Besides which we have the education question to discuss, and many other matters and things. Meanwhile, time is creeping on, and before we get to work again March will be entered upon. How easy it would be, under pressure of exigent business, to postpone these Irish measures for a time, and then plead the absolute impossibility of considering such great questions with the grave deliberation which is due to them this Session. You may ask, Would the House stand this? Well, between ourselves, I believe that, with a general election at hand, four fifths of the members would much rather not be called upon to pledge themselves on such delicate subjects as Church and land.

You see it is settled that Lord Chelmsford retires from the woolsack, and that Lord Cairns will be Lord Chancellor. This change, with the presence of Lord Stanley, will make the Government strong in the Upper House; but, without Lord Stanley, how weak it will be in the Commons! If Lord Cairns should take the Great Seal, will not that prove that the Church and land questions are to be shelved? He is a staunch Irish Protestant.

THE LITERARY LOUNGER. THE MAGAZINES.

No doubt, Mr. Editor, your readers have most of them noted the recent disinterestment of the forgotten fact that Defoe intended "Robinson Crusoe" for an allegory, with himself for the hero. Mr. Henry Kingsley, Messrs. Macmillan and Co.'s editor, has publicly disclaimed any considerable share in the preparation of the new edition, except that of a man of letters engaged to reintroduce an old friend to the world, and has referred to a more laborious and scholarly person (I think those are the words, or near them) behind his back; but I am curious enough to ask if anybody remembers whether or not the fact in question was overlooked in a life of Defoe which was published about ten years ago, in which, if I recollect aright, the author suggested that men of genius should now and then be put in prison for the express purpose of compelling them to write good books. This "life" was voluminous, and a fact so patent to any real student of Defoe could hardly have been overlooked. Those readers of "Robinson Crusoe" who may be startled at this notion of its inclosing allegorical meaning, have only to remember that we have Defoe's very express testimony to the fact, and a satire founded upon the fact, published shortly after the appearance of the book. Whether anyone has hit upon even the key to the allegory is another question, and I decidedly think not.

Not because I am competent to criticise scientifically scientific papers, but because any man accustomed to criticism can tell when a magazine is particularly well edited and thoroughly answers to its pretensions, I invite attention to the *Popular Science Review*. I have more than once said here, not only that "dry reading" is not dry if you only "tackle" it, but that this very periodical is more entertaining than ninety novels out of a hundred. What an admirable pen is that of Dr. Maxwell T. Masters, and what delightful reading is his paper on "Sensitive Plants." Here you have a scrap or two:—

We may refer to the extraordinary rhythmical tremors observed by M. Lecoq, of Clermont, in the leaves of *Colocasia esculenta*. These are stated to occur at intervals, the plant in the mean time being perfectly at rest; so violent are the vibrations, according to M. Lecoq, that on one occasion the very pot in which the plant was growing shook so violently that it could with difficulty be steadied. This statement has been confirmed by another French naturalist. . . . Vibration, even without actual contact, is sufficient to set the leaves of sensitive plants in motion. A footstep in their native country makes the leaves close; in other cases the touch of an insect insures the motion of the leaf or of the stem. Sensitive plants, however, are apt, like other creatures, to get more or less accustomed to external influences, to get exhausted, and so after a time become indifferent and lose their mobility. A curious instance of this is seen in the experiments performed by Desfontaines, who carried a mimosa about with him in his carriage. The poor plant at first manifested its usual signs of sensibility; but by-and-by it ceased to respond to the stimulus, and its leaves became motionless. We can testify to similar results, from conveying a specimen by railway. Most of the sensitive plants are more active in their native country than with us. . . . Opium, ether, chloroform, all exert a paralyzing influence on the leaves.

I fear I forgot *St. Pauls* this month. Its most obvious merit is the promptitude with which it walks up to the political and quasi-political questions of the hour. And it seems particularly well-informed upon Army questions.

Aunt Judy should be purchased and read, if only for a little negro boy's "exercise" about Prince Albert, which will cause heartier and more truly genial laughter than anything that has for a long time been printed. I say to everyone, then, get *Aunt Judy* for February, and read the essay of George Augustus W. Bismarck, aged ten years, nigger, of Barbadoes.

The indefatigable Mr. Beeton is here again with his *English woman's Domestic Magazine*, in which, for all the fashion-plates, the literature is admirable; really good stories, really good essays, really good editing. For some time past the magazine has been most interesting on account of the correspondence that has been going on about tight lacing. Your readers, Mr. Editor, may be amused to hear that the majority (I think) of these lady letter-writers have been standing up for the old-fashioned compression of the female figure. I read their detestable letters with ineffable disgust at their essential coarseness, their hopeless stupidity.

Mr. Beeton's new venture, *Beeton's Journal*, consists of "Travel, Sport, History, and Romance," and it seems to maintain most of the old characteristics of his literature for boys and youths. One of the recent numbers contains a curious essay on the decline of the inventive spirit in our own country. It is a large subject.

The *Argosy* contains a charade by—guess whom! Cowper had, apparently, such an exalted idea of the dignity of deans that he thought it a wonderful thing for one of them to be anything but proud—

Humility may clothe an English dean—
That grace was Cowper's—his, confessed by all,
Though placed in golden Durham's second stall.

(I quote from memory.) The author of the charade in the *Argosy* is the Dean of Canterbury. Archbishop Whately used to make riddles; but then he was not an *English* Archbishop. Paley used to cut jokes; but then he only performed "archidiaconal functions." Could we conceive an Archbishop of Canterbury writing an acrostic—even a "Scripture acrostic"?

THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

At the LYCEUM the pantomime has given place, after a successful run, to an adaptation by Mr. Tom Taylor, of Brach Vogel's play of "Narcisse." Mr. Smith's object in producing this piece is to introduce to the London public an actor whose name has for some years been celebrated on the Continent and in North America, but who comes among us, nevertheless, as an utter stranger. M. Bandmann has, I believe, become famous in precisely the class of dramatic characters with which Mr. Fechter's name is generally identified in London, and appearing, as Mr. Bandmann does, at a theatre which has been the scene of so many of Mr. Fechter's successes, comparisons will naturally be instituted between these two actors; and, on the whole, these comparisons will not be to the new-comer's disadvantage. M. Bandmann brings with him every qualification for an effective actor in the higher class of picturesque melodrama. He is tall; he has a good figure and a very dignified and graceful carriage. His delivery is admirable, his action emphatic and effective, without being conventional or stagey. That he is a really great actor no one is justified in saying who has seen him in only one piece; that he may be a great actor anyone who has seen him in "Narcisse" will allow. The piece itself is a bad one. Its dialogue has evidently been freshened up by Mr. Tom Taylor, but the clumsy satire of the original is allowed to assert itself much too frequently and much too forcibly. Few English playgoers are prepared to interest themselves to any great extent in the fictitious intrigues of an historical court; and those playgoers who are sufficiently intimate with the politics and literature of the period to anticipate any pleasure from two or three hours spent in the society of the Pompadour, the Duc de Choiseul, the Comte du Barri, Baron d'Holbach, and Diderot, will find their pleasure considerably dashed by the astounding liberties that the original author has taken with these historical personages. The part of the Pompadour is played by Miss Herbert with much majestic coquetry; and in the scene in which the Pompadour meets her husband both Miss Herbert and Mr. Bandmann played with singular power. Miss Milly Palmer filled the part of the actress, Doris Quinault, with perfect taste; and Miss Furlato made the most of the Marquise d'Épinay. Mr. Bandmann's success is complete and decided. "Narcisse" is now followed by an amalgamation of the ballet scenes from "Cock Robin," in which M. Epinosa, Mdle. Sophie, and Miss Esther Austin appear.

Mr. Frank Talfourd's pretty little domestic sketch, "A Household Fairy," which was played with success at the St. James's some years since, with Miss Wyndham and Mr. Craven in the two characters, was revived at the QUEEN'S last Monday. Mr. Calthorpe and Miss Ellen Terry composed the cast, and, with their assistance, this pretty little bagatelle opens the evening effectively.

1ST SURREY RIFLES.

On Friday, the 21st inst., the histrionic amateurs of the above corps performed, in their own hall, with more than ordinary success. The first piece on the programme was Mr. H. J. Byron's comedy of "A Hundred Thousand Pounds." Gerald Goodwin had an able representative in Private Bignore, with the exception that, in the third act, he lacked tenderness. Pennythorne was portrayed with much quiet humour by Sergeant Fourdrinier: his make-up was excellent. Private Macrone, as Fluker, and Corporal Rowe, as Joe Barlow, contributed to the success of the comedy. The amateurs were assisted by Mrs. Newbury (an admirable Mrs. Barlow) and Misses Austin and Ashford. In "Little Toddekins," the second and concluding piece, the part of Brownsmith was rattled off by Sergeant Fourdrinier with his usual ability. Mrs. Newbury caused considerable merriment as the bashful Amanthis, and Miss Ashford was a pretty Susan. Private Macrone as Babicombe, Miss Austin as Annie Babicombe, and Private Rushton as Littlepop, completed the cast. The audience was numerous, and the pieces were mounted with a completeness seldom equalled on the amateur stage.

PARIS GOSSIP.

Place aux Boufs! I must tell you of the Grand Procession of the Fat Oxen, the concluding ceremony of the Carnival, which has this year been a dull one. The turn out was, however, magnificent, the finest seen in Paris for twenty years, and the weather was favourable. Very few masks were to be observed about the streets. One young lady, who was escorted by her father, and was dressed in light blue tights trimmed with broad gold lace from neck to ankle, seemed rather to tickle the fancy of the mob; and she was well hooted, poor thing, with true Parisian politeness, all through the Place du Théâtre Français and that of the Louvre. This was on the first day of the show. The following day the procession was rather perfunctory; but on Shrove Tuesday an additional band was put on, and some surprises were arranged for by the lucky butcher who got up the affair. First came a squadron of dragons; these were followed by a capital band of music; then a grand car, with the primest of these prime oxen, which you could get a dozen to beat any Monday morning in the Islington Cattle Market, accompanied by the sacrificial priests in ancient costume. Then another band, and another car, and so on, for each of the four animals, named La Nievre, Luttre Masqué, Paul Forestier, and Mignon. Following the vehicles were well-mounted cavaliers, representing all the known races of the world, and some which I think have only been discovered as yet in the imagination of the ingenious designer of this display. The freshness and brilliancy of the dresses and the knowledge and taste manifested in the whole get-up, were something wonderful. There were in the cars emblematical personages, mostly female, dressed and undressed. All the goddesses of Olympus were carried in this procession, and some queer-looking men, who were meant for deities. There were Calmuck and Chinese warriors, negresses, Red Indians, Roman cavaliers, toreadors, Scythians, savages, peasants, and Paris gamins, all admirably well tricked out. The most melancholy individuals in the spectacle were the fat, or to

Literature.

An Old Story and other Poems. By ELIZABETH D. CROSS. Longmans and Co.: London, 1868.

It is so rarely that one comes across a volume of verse from a previously unknown writer, in which the boundary line between verse and poetry is overpassed in the upward direction, that a warm welcome is due to a little book like that now before us. Miss Cross has some real poetic vision and (the attentive reader will note) very considerable culture. We should agree with other authorities who have already reviewed Miss Cross in picking out for special notice "A River" and "The Falcon." We also find (with others of her critics) that she has not yet conquered a manner of her own. Sometimes the model is obvious. "Aurora" compels you to remember Shelley's "Arethusa;" "An Old Story" too vividly recals Mr. Tennyson's "Grandmother's Apology;" and we are perpetually reminded of one very bad model indeed—the late Adelaide Ann Proctor. It rests with Miss Cross to decide whether or not she will sincerely cultivate the poetic art. One thing she must make sure of beforehand—that it is very hard work.

The reader will, we hope, discern the significance of that portion which we are able to quote of the little poem entitled

A RIVER.

It heeded never the gardens,
Where the flowers lay drooping and wan,
Nor staid by the thirsty meadows,
Where the sun so fiercely shone.

A wilful, headlong river,
That turned not to left or right,
You might hear the passionate rushing,
Far in the silent night.

"Where was it hastening, the river,
Flowing so straight and true?"
I cannot tell you, my darling,
For only the river knew.

Nay, do not smile, to the river
It was matter of life and death;
To have watched it hurrying onward
Had taken away your breath.

Perchance, in depths of a far blue lake
Its waters yearned to rest;
Perchance the many-voiced sea had called
The river home to his breast.

Whatever the dream, it might not be;
For they laid great stones, and hard,
In the bed of the shining river,
And all its purpose mured.

And if you had heard the sobbing
Of waters, the passionate moan,
You would have thought a human heart
Was breaking against the stone.

Yet now, in the thirsty meadows
Is water enough and to spare,—
The drooping flowers in the gardens
Raise faces so fresh and fair!

Well—was it well for the river?
You think, ("It was better far")
I cannot tell: is the trailing light
Sweet to the falling star?

But if you had heard the sobbing
Of waters, the passionate moan,
You would have thought a human heart
Was breaking against the stone.

Miss Cross occasionally adopts the bold manner of Miss Rossetti, but it does not work well in her hands. What earthly reason was there for putting that anecdote of "San Giuseppe" (p. 92) (Garibaldi) into those limping stanzas? Briefly, our verdict upon this little volume is that it shows true poetic instinct, and often true natural grace of execution; but, on the whole, indifferent, indecisive, and too often imitative workmanship. And, lest this should seem cold praise to a charming little book, we add that "A River" and "The Falcon" are alone sufficient to make us hope to meet Miss Cross again some day.

Translations from the Lyrics of Horace, in English Verse. By E. H. BRODIE, M.A. London: Smith, Elder, and Co.

He must be a bold man who seeks to translate one of the most imitable writers of all ages; and yet how many have rushed into this almost impossible task with non-angelic temerity! Nearly all Europe is running over with versions of Horace; but in England, and especially in recent years, the attempts have been most frequent. Now, the exact utility of these performances we have always been disposed to doubt. Practically, such rhythmical renderings—the word poetical is surely too strong—are of no value to the student, who is much better off with the familiar "crib" of our school-days. Again, the pleasure they are supposed to give the reader must be confined to a very small class, if not absolutely limited to those who produce them, their friends, and other translators who may care to compare notes. But a greater objection to such works is their effect on the mind of the entirely unclassical reader. Take the case of any man well acquainted with English literature, and with some knowledge, in the original, of the best writers of Germany and France, and anxious to gain some acquaintance with the merits of the Horace famous for centuries as lyricist and satirist. If such a one read Mr. Brodie's translations, he would put down the book with the impression that the Venetian was a mediocre and second-rate writer.

It might be possible to publish a tolerably good *variorum* edition of Horatian translations. Scattered about in our literature are some admirable renderings of particular odes and satires. We might go back to Sir Walter Raleigh, thence on through Milton and Cowley to the Earl of Derby and Mr. Gladstone! But we say fearlessly that translations of all by the same hand have been failures—not forgetting the old-fashioned version of Francis; Dr. Sewall's cramped, strained, and eccentric renderings; that of Mr. Francis Newman, chargeable with some of the same faults; Professor Conington's, a great improvement; Lord Ravensworth's elegant and diffuse translations; and Mr. Theodore Martin's, superior to them all. But in all these there are special odes happily rendered, and the pages of *Blackwood* and of *Fraser*, of the *Cornhill* and *Temple Bar*, supply here and there a felicitous attempt. A scholar of judgment and taste would make a good book of such material. And here it may be said that paraphrase is better than translation, as Dryden and Pope agreed. The idioms of the two languages are very dissimilar, and the translator who violates the idiom of his own language commits an unpardonable offence.

From these remarks it would appear that there is no merit in Mr. Brodie's "Lyrics of Horace;" but to convey such an impression would be unfortunate or unfair. On the contrary, there are passages in which many Horatian phrases are tersely and forcibly given, and many more might have been, had he not sometimes sacrificed the sense for the sake of the shackles of rhyme. Mr. Brodie's general scholarship is not to be questioned; and, after the credentials displayed in the titlepage, "One of her Majesty's Inspectors of Schools, and formerly scholar of Trinity College, Oxford," it would be strange if it could be. From amongst much that is excellent, then, we do not care to quote any one ode—which might set readers quarrelling; but we must give two samples of such exceptions as may fairly be taken. Ode 2, Book 14, is given:—

(O Postumus, O Postumus,
How swift the fleeting years glide by us!

Here, surely, is an unmusical sacrifice to rhyme. Much to be preferred is so charming a liberty which Ingoldsby takes with the English language in translation—

Eheu fugaces! Postume, Postume,
Oh, for the days that are lost to me, lost to me!

And the 19th Ode, Book 2, begins,

Bacchus I saw on rocks remote,
Teaching his songs (think not I dote,
Readers in days to come.)

which travels out of the original altogether, and sadly clashes with opinions laid down in the preface. Mr. Brodie draws a not unskillful likeness between Horace and Addison, and thinks that a study of Addison's prose would be the best training for one who aspires to translate Horace. Far more to the general taste will be the opinion that a wholesale study of English poetry would be the better training; and this, we take it, Mr. Brodie must have had, since he has been, he says, most careful to find out well-accredited and appropriate metres. And yet, with all this study of English poetry, he suffers to escape him two such unpoetical passages as those above. It is impossible to withhold sympathy; but still it is to be lamented that enthusiasts will always attempt the "splendid monument," instead of contenting themselves with "casting a flower on the grave."

Tom Brown's School Days. By an Old Boy. London: Macmillan and Co.

This is a perfect gem of a book. It is a beautiful new edition (the fifth, we believe) of "Tom Brown's School Days," the author of which, as everybody knows, is the hon. member for Lambeth, Mr. Thomas Hughes. This edition is beautifully printed on toned paper, is of a size conveniently adapted for the pocket, and is sure to make more popular than ever perhaps the best and most healthy book about boys for boys that ever was written. In the preface now prefixed to the work the author avows that his intention in writing was to have the opportunity to preach, and that he is determined to continue to preach. Well, though preaching in books that profess to be stories may sometimes (very often, indeed) be a bore, were all preaching like that of the "Old Boy," few persons, whether boys or men, would be inclined to object to it. One very beautiful form which our author's preaching assumes is the account given of George Arthur's father, the model of what clergymen should be, and a specimen, we doubt not, of what not a few clergymen are. We wish we could quote it, though, of course, most of our readers are familiar with the chapter. It is too long, however; but here is a bit of preaching in a different strain, which we cannot resist the temptation to extract, because it is very pat just now, when education and the management of public schools occupy so much attention, and when many people are inclined to indulge in somewhat of a snivelling vein on the topic discussed:—

After all, what would life be without fighting, I should like to know? From the cradle to the grave, fighting, rightly understood, is the business, the real, highest, honestest business of every son of man. Everyone who is worth his salt has his enemies, who must be beaten, be they evil thoughts and habits in himself or spiritual wickedness in high place, or Russians, or Border-ruffians, or Bill, Tom, or Harry, who will not let him live his life in quiet till he has thrashed them.

It is no good for Quakers, or any other body of men, to uplift their voices against fighting. Human nature is too strong for them, and they don't follow their own precepts. Every soul of them is doing his own piece of fighting, somehow and somewhere. The world might be a better world without fighting, for anything I know, but it wouldn't be our world; and therefore I am dead against crying peace when there is no peace, and don't mean to be. I am as sorry as any man to see folk fighting the wrong people and the wrong things, but I'd a deal sooner see them doing that than that they should have no fight in them.

I have put in this chapter on fighting of malice prepense partly because I want to give you a true picture of what everyday school life was in my time, and not a kid-glove and go-to-meeting, out picture; and partly because of the cant and twaddle that's talked of boxing and fighting with fists nowadays. Even Thackeray has given in to it, and only a few weeks ago there was some rampant stuff in the *Times* on the subject, in an article on field-sports.

Boys will quarrel, and when they quarrel will sometimes fight. Fighting with fists is the natural and English way for English boys to settle their quarrels. What substitute for it is there, or ever was there, amongst any nation under the sun? What would you like to see take its place? Learn to box, then, as you learn to play cricket and football. Not one of you will be the worse, but very much the better, for learning to box well. Should you never have to use it in earnest, there's no exercise in the world so good for the temper and for the muscles of the back and legs.

As to fighting, keep out of it if you can, by all means. When the time comes, if it ever should, that you have to say "Yes" or "No" to a challenge to fight, say "No" if you can—only take care you make it clear to yourself why you say "No." It's a proof of the highest courage if done from true Christian motives. It's quite right and justifiable if done from a simple aversion to physical pain and danger. But don't say "No" because you fear a licking, and say or think it's because you fear God, for that's neither Christian nor honest. And if you do fight, fight it out; and don't give in while you can stand and see.

There, we have almost been tempted into treating this as a new book, known to few save critics; but altogether we welcome this new edition of "Tom Brown" with real pleasure, and hope it will be in the pockets of thousands of schoolboys every where ere many months are passed. A better book for a school prize could not be found.

Debrett's Illustrated Peerage of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland. 1868. London: Dean and Son.

Debrett's Illustrated Baronetage, with the Knightage, of the United Kingdom. 1868. London: Dean and Son.

The books published annually under the titles of "Debrett's Peerage" and "Debrett's Baronetage and Knightage" of the United Kingdom have just been issued for 1868, and contain all information within range of the plan upon which they are compiled up to the latest period. The editor claims for these volumes the following special advantages over others of a similar character:—"1, The correctness of the heraldic emblazonnments; 2, the convenience of size; 3, the lowness of price; 4, the number of illustrations (over 1600 coats of arms)." So far as we have had occasion to test these features, and the general accuracy of the information given, the editor seems to be justified in the claim he advances to public patronage. Without in any way disparaging the labours of others in this department, we can honestly say that we have found Debrett's books very useful indeed, and we have no doubt that thousands of other persons have had like experience. We thank the editor for the valuable information he furnishes, and trust his labours will long continue to receive, as they merit, the appreciation of the public.

Fret-cutting and Perforated Carving. With Practical Illustrations. By W. BEMROSE, jun., Author of "Manual of Wood-cutting." London: Bemrose and Sons.

Wood-carving must be a favourite amusement with the public. We had occasion recently to notice two works designed to aid the amateur in following the art; and now here is a third with a similar purpose in view. Well, with all this excellent instruction and guidance, wood-carvers, whether amateurs or professionals, must have great facilities afforded them for learning and pursuing their work; and we hope they duly profit thereby. The present work, besides instructions in the art and directions as to how to select and use tools, contains a variety of designs for bookshelves, brackets, picture-frames, bookrests, cornices, table mats, hand-mirror frames, card-baskets, work-baskets, and other useful and ornamental articles. We trust no one will be deterred from imitating these designs by the funeral aspect they exhibit on paper, for of course they will look very different when executed in wood. We wish Mr. Bemrose and his coadjutors in teaching wood-carving much success in their efforts.

Cassell's Annotated Edition of Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Holy Bible. Illustrated. London: Cassell, Petter, and Galpin.

Henry's Commentary has long been a standard—perhaps we may say the standard—work explanatory of Scripture; and in the present issue we have the Commentary itself carefully commented on, annotated, and illustrated. Of the many editions that have been published of Henry's great work, it may be confidently affirmed that the present will neither be the least useful nor the least popular. For our mind, the type used in certain divisions of the work is rather too small; and, if we might offer a hint to the publishers, it would be to bestow a little more care on the printing. The paper is good, but the printing is not so clean and clear as it might be; at least in the part now before us. The book is very cheap, thirty-two large quarto pages being sold for sevenpence; and the illustrations, so far as we have had opportunities of judging, are appropriate and well executed.

be forced, even themselves, as if they had a consciousness of their impending fate. In one vehicle was the figure of an enormous *beauf* spreading wide, and when the procession came within waded silk filled with gas, and when the procession came before the Emperor and Empress in the Tuileries courtyard the before strings were cut and the graceful animal soared away up to the great merriment of the Imperial party as well as of the crowd. M. Duval has made a hit. There was a bad joke about the *beauf* being exhibited; but, believe me, a good deal more said than is done in the way of eating dead horses. The *beauf* is licensed for the sale of this particular *viande* here are all failures.

All Paris was gay on Tuesday evening. In the afternoon the gardens and principal thoroughfares were crowded, and here and there could be seen a juvenile Pierrot, or a Columbine, or a Flora; very pretty and very innocent. The following morning haggard and weary-looking, soiled costumes, leers, half bacchanalian half that of the *beauf* were to be met on the streets, the result of the night's revelry. That, with a certain class, is supposed to be the carnivalesque season, for the season of fasting and prayer. But do not let me mislead you.

Præminora canamus! Turning from great things to small, I remind you that the Chamber has adjourned, after nearly a month's hot debate on the Press Bill. Of rows in the Legislative Assembly you have recorded some; but there have been many. On Monday evening there was quite a scene. The President, to avoid something unpleasant which he sniffed in the air, bolted, and left the chair vacant. The *Moniteur* says the sitting was formally closed; but that authority does not bear the highest character for truthfulness, and some independent eye and ear witnesses say otherwise. M. Proudhon, who, with his colleague in the House and fellow-journalist, M. Rochefort, had been, the day before, thoroughly whitewashed by a vote of honour from the charge of taking bribes to support Prussian and Italian policy in their papers, the *Siecle* and the *Opinion Nationale*—wanted to bring the matter forward. But the President, by running away, threw his *agis* over Viscount Kervéguen, the accuser, and, of course, there was then no house. A scene of great tumult and hot discussion took place, however, and the public in the gallery shouted out "Vive la Gauche!" "You do us honour," said, with a laugh, a member of the Right. "Pooh! 'Tis only some boys pulling us at us," retorted M. Jules Favre, the most distinguished deputy of the Left.

This affair of Kervéguen and Havin and Guérout would have been eclipsed by another between M. E. Picard and M. Emile Olivier on the one hand, and M. Granier de Cassagnac on the other, if the latter of the two first-named gentlemen, fearing to lose patch, had not manfully declined to have anything to say or to do with the swashbuckler whose name rhymes to Pourceaugnac. The general opinion here is that if anyone would shoot both Cassagnac *père* and Cassagnac *fils* (of the *Patrie*) he would deserve a medal among the *grands hommes à qui la patrie est reconnaissante*.

Again the report is afloat of a visit of the Empress and the Prince Imperial to Rome. It may be true, but meantime few there are who believe it.

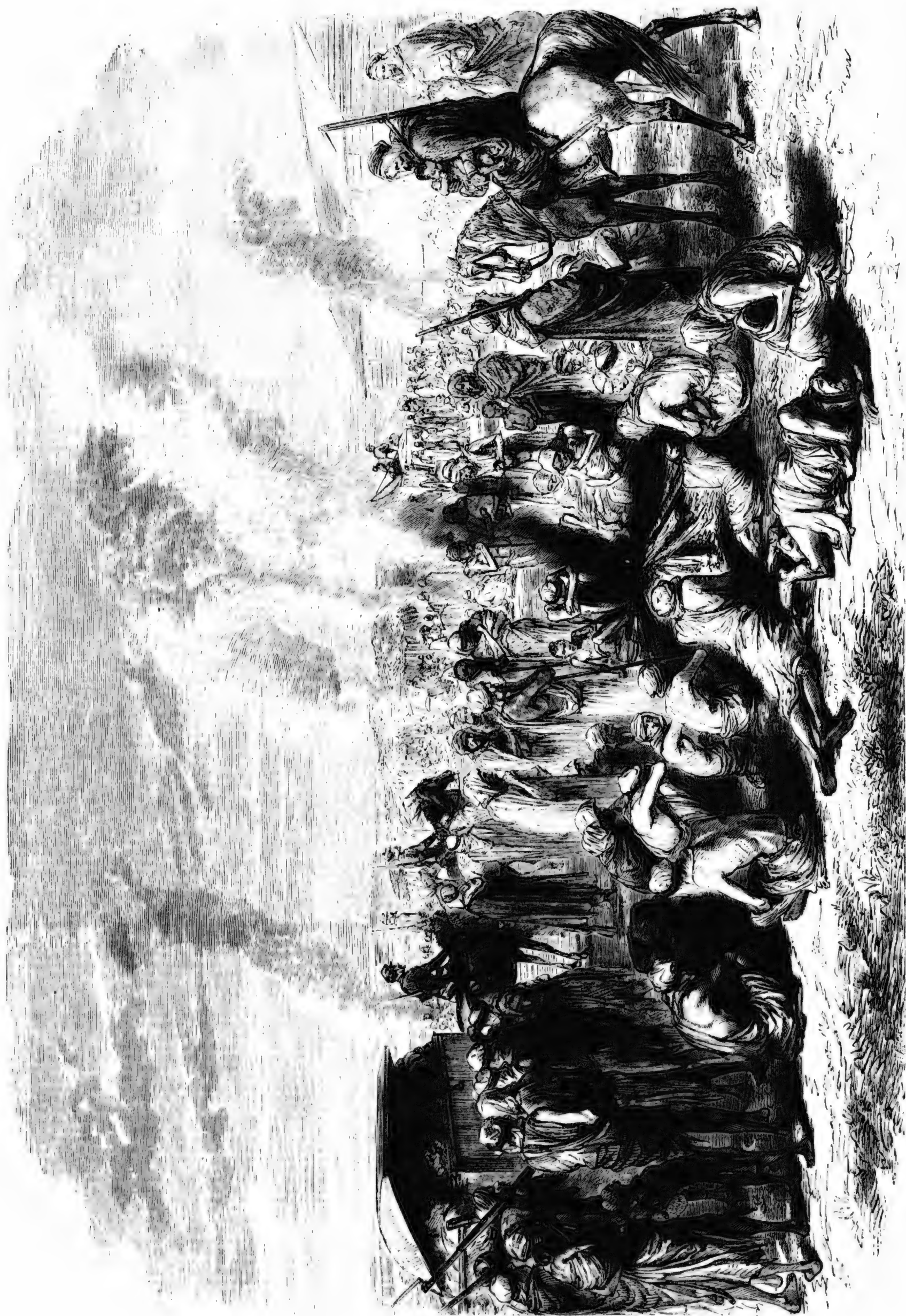
A singular game-law case has been before the Court of Correctional Police. It beats anything recorded of justices' justices with you. Two little fellows, of seven and thirteen, set a trap to catch sparrows in their father's field. A watchful guardian of the game, however, was near, and caught the culprits in the very act. The case was gross, so he had them up; but when the charge was read Bench and audience burst out into laughter. The father of the boys, nevertheless, had to pay the equivalent of £2 English in costs, by virtue of the noble maxim that an agent of the Government in France can do no wrong.

Nothing new in the theatrical world. The young men who shouted for "Ruy Blas" at the Odéon have been sent to prison to teach them better manners, and one of the actors in the play cries "God save the *Kean*!"

THE SINGULARITY IN THE CALENDAR.—It has been remarked that in 1868 there are five Saturdays in February. By a rough guess, as it would seem, it has been added that this has not taken place for a score of years. Exactly twenty-eight years, amounting to a solar cycle, have elapsed since something occurred. During that period each day of the week has appeared the same number of times in February in its own leap year. The calendar of the present century contains twenty-four leap years, and they may be arranged in seven classes:—February has five Sundays in 1804, 1860; five Mondays in 1808, 1836, 1864, 1892; five Tuesdays in 1812, 1878; five Wednesdays in 1804, 1832, 1860, 1888; five Thursdays in 1814, 1872; five Fridays in 1828, 1856, 1884; five Saturdays in 1812, 1840, 1868, 1896.

THE LATE GALE.—Very severe gales blew on some parts of the coast during the past week. The smack Gloucester Packet of Cardigan was totally wrecked at Fismard, South Wales. The crew of two men were fortunately rescued by the Sir Edward Perrott life-boat of the National Life-boat Institution. The ship Omega, of London, was lost off the Norfolk coast. Ten of the crew got on board the Cockle light-ship, with which she had come into collision; but the mate, in endeavouring to escape, fell overboard and was drowned. The captain and the remainder of the crew, in number, were saved by the Mark-lane and Birmingham life-boats (Greenwich and Caistor), belonging to the Life-boat Society. At Newport an unknown schooner ran against the breakwater, and in five minutes went to pieces, all the crew being drowned. The disaster was very sudden, and the services of the life-boat Princess of Wales could not be had available. The smack Ann, of Rothsay, broke from her moorings near Swansea and drifted along the Channel with only two men on board, one of them being the master and owner. He was unfortunately washed overboard and drowned. The Good Deliverance (Porthcawl) life-boat put off to the rescue of the other man, who took to the rigging. She did not succeed in the first trial, and before she had time to make a second attempt, the vessel stranded on the beach in comparatively shallow water, and the poor fellow was bravely rescued by Thomas David from the shore.

MR. GLADSTONE AND THE TRADES UNIONS.—An adjourned meeting of the London trades delegates was held on Friday evening week for the purpose of receiving the report from the deputation who waited upon Mr. Gladstone on the preceding Tuesday. Mr. George Potter occupied the chair. The chairman reported, on behalf of the deputation. They considered the interview with Mr. Gladstone had been attended with the most satisfactory results. The hon. gentlemen had met them in the most frank manner, and had acknowledged that many impressions existing in his mind about the actions of trades unions had been greatly modified. He had strongly urged the principle of co-operation on the deputation, and his suggestions were well worthy of consideration. The delegates had no doubt seen in the paper a letter from Mr. Mount, the secretary of the master builders, in which he suggested that the delegates should send a challenge to the employers to appoint twelve of their number to meet a equal number of trades delegates to discuss the whole question of capital and labour, with a view of arriving at some agreement by which the existing antagonism might be diminished, if not altogether removed. He thought this was a question well worthy of consideration at a future meeting. A long and animated discussion ensued regarding the adoption of the report. Mr. Gilmore (manu) objected to its reception, on the ground that the deputation did not address itself sufficiently to practical arguments on the rules of the unions. Mr. Gladstone had stated that one of the rules of the masons' union was that regarding the removal of worked stone from one part of the country to the other was worthy of savages. If he had been on the deputation, he would have told Mr. Gladstone that there were West-End masons of the rules of which the same might be predicated. The deputation had stated that such a rule as that spoken of by Mr. Gladstone existed, but the members of it must have done so in ignorance of the facts. It was not a general rule of the masons' society, but it appeared in local codes, which were included in the fortnightly returns of the general association, and sanctioned by that body. It had, he said, the approval of some 18,000 masons throughout the country. Mr. Broadhurst, of the same society, and what Mr. Gilmore had stated. He had himself worked on jobs to the value of hundreds of tons of worked stone had been brought, and there were innumerable instances in which such material had been sent from the country to London, and vice versa. Ultimately a resolution was adopted to receive the report, and thanking the deputation for their services. Mr. Gilmore then moved, "That the thanks of the delegates are given to Mr. Gladstone for the frank and courteous way in which he treated the deputation. That the thanks of the delegates are also due to the London daily press for the full report they gave of the proceedings." Mr. Bolton seconded the resolution, which was carried by acclamation. Mr. Dyer then moved from the masons' society) then moved—"That this meeting of London trades delegates desire to express their disapprobation of the conduct of a body calling itself the Conference of Amalgamated Trades, in which the evident object of casting discredit upon the representative character of the deputation who represented this delegate meeting before that honourable gentlemen." Mr. Clifford (delegate from the General Association of Painters) seconded the resolution, which was supported by several delegates, and carried unanimously.



THE FAMINE IN ALGERIA : REFUGE IN THE GRAND AISLE DU CHELIF, FOR THE POOR NEAR MOSTAGANEM.

A ROARING "LION."—At a deputation from the National Conserva-
tion, which waited upon Mr. Gathorne Hardy, on Tuesday, to con-
gratulate the Government on passing the Reform Bill, and to express con-
fidence in the Ministry, a Mr. Smith (Smith of Rotherhithe, he is called)
spoke a speech which seemed intended as an advertisement of a penny new-
paper, entitled the *British Lion*, and which is to annihilate Radicalism in
of the land. Mr. Smith, however, has an eye to business, as well as patri-
sm. Said he:—"The stronghold of Radicalism has been the cheap week-
press; but we, Sir, have established the *British Lion*, which circulates
thousands, and I call on you, Sir, and all present, to support it in a busi-
ness way by giving it advertisements. In the *British Lion*, Sir, we have
given the Liberals what they will not forget. They have libelled us
in every way, and called us everything, even walruses. The
have even gone so far as to say that no one could know whether
we had a head or a tail. What are those people to whom we are op-
posed? Are they the people who figured in last Saturday's paper per-
secuting the press? Are they not the people who got up an agitation
like wildfire? I have been used to work all my life, and I can tell you
don't want no mercenary agitators. What we want you, the Conservative
Ministry—you whom we have the highest respect for and confidence in—to
be to associate with us, to come a little more amongst us. You did not
come to the Crystal Palace. But, certainly, Lord John Manners did
come. Well, Sir, I wish to present you with this paper (*British Lion*)
to peruse over. I wrote to the Chancellor of the Exchequer about the
British Lion, but I did not receive a reply, and I also wrote to
Lord Derby for support, but I did not get any. It is a penny paper, Sir—
is a new paper, Sir—and is doing an immense amount of good. If there are
any Conservative gentlemen here who have advertisements to give away,
let them not mind sending them to the daily papers, but to us: because
may tell you, Sir, that I am a part proprietor of the *British Lion*, and, of
course, I wish to do my proper service. In conclusion, Sir, I have ven-
great pleasure in meeting Mr. Hardy, that great hero of the metropolis.
Mr. Hardy bowed and put the *British Lion* in his pocket.



DEMOLITION OF THE PARIS EXHIBITION BUILDING.

LAW AND CRIME.

THE great Speke mystery has collapsed. The great Speke has been accidentally mistaken for somebody else and so taken into custody; after having travelled the breadth of the island without detection, notwithstanding the offer of a reward of £500 and the exhibition of his carte-de-visite at every police-station in the country. We can really claim to smile at the alarmists and ingenious theorists who suggested that he had been murdered and buried in Birdcage-walk; carried off by Fenians, in mistake for the Home Secretary; hoisted over the park railings and sunk in a pond four feet deep; hustled through Westminster thoroughfares to be slaughtered in a backslum; or chloroformed in a cab and flung over Westminster Bridge. From the first we have maintained that the circumstances of his disappearance were incompatible with murder. Still, up to the moment of our writing, one single fact remained unexplained, and that is the finding of the hat in Birdcage-walk. Mr. Speke ought to tell us about this matter. He has not merely excited curiosity—he has caused grave public alarm—he has aroused not only the sympathy but the ingenuity of the nation to account for an aberration which now appears to have been mental as well as corporeal. He has certainly done one good thing by demonstrating that an English citizen cannot be suddenly missed from our midst without awakening the active persevering interest of the entire community. His deed was wicked and cruel. There is no doubt that it is very delightful to break away from a white-kid-gloved party in prospect, and to tramp about in rude costume over hill and dale, by rock and sea, to chat with bores and chance travelling companions, and take one's nightly rest in homely rural English inns. Perhaps we would all do it, if we could abnegate all social ties and duties, and disregard for the time all family affections. The Reverend Mr. Speke has succeeded, to some extent, in thus eliminating himself from conventional bondage, but he will have to pay a price for it. He has shown his independence of his fellow-men, and he will only have himself to blame if henceforth they care nothing about him.

It does not appear to have been noted by any of our contemporaries that the recent election of Coroner for West Middlesex has been a somewhat creditable exhibition. A high judicial office has been the subject of a common election. The salary and perquisites of the office, the probable cost and relative profit of its attainment, have been freely and publicly discussed. Placards have been issued and posted imputing to one or more of the candidates not so much the desire of being elected as that of compromise for withdrawal. It has been made known that the cost of the election would be £1500. Whether this be true or not we cannot pretend to decide; but from what has been patent to all the electors is, that an enormous sum must have been laid out by somebody or another in this contest. We have heard, on authority certainly good enough to justify our own credence, one or two strange stories hereabout. One is that persons not in the highest condition are held to be freeholders, as having paid for ground in the cemeteries on the interest of relatives. Another, that tripping-tickets have been freely distributed for the purposes of this election. We have been told of one man, a burgeman, who received forty orders—each for a pint of beer—for distribution on behalf of one of the candidates; and of a publican who, in the same interest, was authorised to serve out gin gratuitously to friendly electors. We will not venture to say in whose interest this kind of bribery was authorised or permitted. At present we only report these stories as rumours, sufficient even as such to constitute a grave public scandal. Since writing the foregoing, we find that these matters are to form the subject of legal inquiry.

The man Clancy, who fired three shots from a revolver at two policemen who arrested him as a deserter, has been sentenced to penal servitude for life. The jury did not find him guilty of attempted murder, but of shooting with intent to "do grievous bodily harm." As one of his bullets passed close to the ear of one of the constables, and the other policeman's whisker was singed by a discharge aimed at his head, the jury must have drawn a very fine distinction.

Mr. George Potter brought an action against the proprietor of a country newspaper, in the columns of which he (Mr. Potter) had been stigmatised as a trades-union tyrant. The jury found for the defendant.

POLICE.

COMBAT BETWEEN A BANKER AND A CABMAN. Mr. H. B. Praed, of Fleet-street, banker, was summoned before Sir R. W. Carden for assaulting H. Sawyer, a cabdriver; and Sawyer appeared to answer two summonses taken out against him by Mr. Praed, one for demanding more than his legal fare, and the other for using insulting and abusive language to him.

Sawyer said that on the 18th inst. Mr. Praed took him from the rank in Piccadilly, near the Albany, and told him to drive to Fleet-street. When he got down he gave him 1s., but he demanded 1s. 6d. He got off his box, as Mr. Praed would not give him the 1s. 6d., and asked him for his name. He rang a bell, and then he turned round and gave him a violent blow in the eye, which knocked him down. He got up, and was struck again by Mr. Praed, and when he got up once more he was knocked down a third time.

Frederick Dewnap, a shorthand writer, proved that the defendant struck the complainant three times and knocked him down.

Mr. Dawes, surgeon, said he had attended the complainant for injuries received on the face. His eye was bruised and his jaw swollen, apparently the effect of several blows.

Mr. Praed said he took the complainant's cab from Piccadilly to Fleet-street, and gave him 1s. as his fare, and then he rang his bell to go indoors, but the cabman got off his box and demanded another 6d. He refused to give it, and then the cabman put himself into a fighting attitude, and declared he would have it. He also said, "You are no gentleman," and "I suppose it is your last shilling." When he assumed such a threatening position he (Mr. Praed) knocked him down. He got up and again attempted to strike him, but he warded off the blow and again struck him in the face. The police came, and they went to the station-house together, where they gave their names and were liberated.

William Carpenter, porter at Praed's bank, said he answered the bell, and when he opened the door

he saw the cabman facing Mr. Praed. The cabman was in a fighting attitude, and struck viciously at Mr. Praed; but he warded the blow, and struck him in the eye. The cabman came up to fight again, and Mr. Praed struck him and knocked him down. The cabman came up a third time to fight, and was again knocked down by Mr. Praed. He then called out for the police, and they both went to the station-house, where they were released.

Mr. Praed then got into the witness-box, and on oath repeated his statement.

Sir R. W. Carden said at first he thought the cabman was a very ill-used man, but after that evidence he would dismiss the summons against Mr. Praed, and, considering that the cabman had been severely punished already, that he had lost his day, and had to pay his solicitor, he would dismiss the summons against him also.

A MATRIMONIAL COMPLICATION.—A middle-aged, buxom-looking woman, addressing Mr. Arnold, said—I want your Worship to help me. I am very much ill-used by a woman who is my husband's wife, and a man who is another woman's husband.

Mr. Arnold—A woman who is your husband's wife, and a man who is another woman's husband? Applicant—Yes, that's it.

Mr. Arnold—I don't very clearly understand it. Applicant—Don't you? Well, I am my husband's wife, and he's got another wife. I want to take proceedings against my husband and his wife. They lead me a rare life, particularly my husband's other wife.

Mr. Arnold—He can't have another wife. Applicant—But he has got her; and I paid for it. Mr. Arnold—You mean to say that your husband has committed bigamy?

Applicant—That I do; and I paid for it.

Mr. Arnold—You paid for it?

Applicant—I've got it here (producing a certificate). I paid 2s. 7d. for it to the parson's wife at Hammersmith.

Mr. Arnold (examining the certificate)—It certainly is a most extraordinary document, as it altogether omits the year in which the marriage it speaks of took place, and it omits to certify that it is a correct copy of the register.

Applicant—The parson's wife took 2s. 7d. of me for it, and it ought to be right.

Mr. Arnold—Do you wish to prosecute your husband for bigamy?

Applicant—Yes, if you like. He married me first.

Mr. Arnold—I have no wish in the matter.

Applicant—I don't mind what I do to him or to her. I should like to get rid of them both. First he is with me, and then he is with her, and then they are both at me together. I want to prosecute him for marrying the two of us?

Mr. Arnold—Before you proceed you must get the date of your husband's other marriage put into that certificate.

NORTHERN CIRCUIT, NEWCASTLE.

A BRAVE GIRL.—Robert Adamson, twenty-five and Thomas Finney, twenty-seven, were charged with feloniously breaking and entering the dwelling-house of Sarah Maughan, Haltwhistle, on the night of Oct. 24 last.

This case excited considerable interest owing to the courageous conduct of the servant girl of the prosecutrix. It appeared that Mrs. Maughan, a respectable, tidy-looking woman, about seventy years of age, occupied a farmhouse and a small farm at Parkside, near Haltwhistle. The house is a lonely one, at some distance from any other, and on the night in question the only inmates were the prosecutrix, her servant maid, and the colly dog. About midnight, long after they had gone to bed, they were alarmed by the barking of the dog, and thereupon Elizabeth Storey, the servant maid, got out of bed and looked out of the window, and she then perceived that a large stick had been fastened with haybands outside the front door so as to prevent the door being opened and anyone getting out. Thinking it a joke of some farmer's boys, she got into bed again, but almost immediately after both her mistress and herself were alarmed by hearing some one attempting to break into the dairy window at the back of the house. They both got up, and the servant girl armed herself with an old flint-and-steel gun, which was kept loaded; and Mrs. Maughan with a scitcheblade, as she said, "to cut their heads off with, if they put them through the window." The two prisoners, however, seemed to be aware that only these two women were in the house, and, disregarding their threats, they dashed in the window, and the servant girl then presented the gun at Adamson and attempted to fire it, but, no priming having been put into the pan, it missed fire, and she seized a broomstick. Adamson jumped through the window, having a cloth over his face with two holes cut in it for his eyes, and struck the servant girl a violent blow with a stick, which broke two of her teeth and bruised her face. She instantly returned the blow with the broomstick, and cut open the man's head with it. A violent struggle then took place between them, in the course of which he got her fast by the hair and threw her down, and she called to her mistress to get the scissors to cut her hair and free her. In the course of this struggle she contrived to pull the cloth from his face, and by the light of the candle they had she coolly told the man she could identify him. The other man, Finney, had by this time got into the house, and began to ill-treat the old woman, cutting her head open with a blow of a stick, knocking her down, and kicking her violently on the side. In the mêlée the candle was knocked out, and the women escaped into a room and fastened the door. One of the men then attempted to enter the room by the window, lifting up the sash, but here he was again met by the servant girl, who had armed herself with the poker. She aimed a blow at him, which smashed the window, and she could not say whether it struck him or not, but he left the window. She then got out of the window and ran to the nearest farmhouse to raise an alarm, and, after some difficulty, succeeded in rousing the inmates, who returned with her to the house. Both men had then got away; but Adamson was subsequently apprehended in Durham, greatly bruised about the head, and the prisoner Finney, having been met by a police sergeant named Young on the road to Hexham, was recognised by the officer, who attempted to apprehend him. Young succeeded in getting one handcuff upon him; but he sprang away and got to a wall, where, with the handcuffs and stones, he made so desperate a resistance, cutting and wounding Young on the head with the handcuffs, that he got away. He was traced across the

river by his footprints in the snow on each side to a haymow, where he was taken into custody with a broken handcuff on his left wrist. Old Mrs. Maughan was found lying behind the front door, much injured. The prisoners had left her house, it appeared, without obtaining any property of value, being alarmed by the escape of the servant girl. The latter, a quiet, respectable, and rather good-looking person, gave her evidence with much simplicity and modesty, and when she left the witness-box his Lordship, addressing her, said she was entitled to the warmest commendation for her bravery and fidelity to her mistress.

Mr. Justice Lush, in summing up the facts to the jury, said the story was more like a romance than an occurrence in everyday life.

The jury, after a short deliberation, found both the prisoners guilty.

At the close of the trial his Lordship called back the girl, Elizabeth Storey, and upon her entering the witness-box the Court burst into loud applause. On quiet being restored, his Lordship, addressing her, said:—"Elizabeth Storey, your conduct really deserves something more than mere verbal commendation; and as I find I have the power to give you a reward, I give instructions for £5 to be handed to you for your fidelity and courage."

The witness modestly and blushingly curtsied her acknowledgments, and left the box amid renewed plaudits.

The prisoners were each sentenced to fifteen years' penal servitude.

THE FENIANS.

THE seven Clerkenwell Fenians were on Tuesday committed for trial for wilful murder. Mr. Lewis tried hard to prove that the case against O'Neill was one of mistaken identity, but without success. Sir Thomas Henry declared that all the prisoners must go before a jury.—On Wednesday the three men charged with attempting to administer the Fenian oath at Deptford were indicted before Mr. Justice Willes, at the Central Criminal Court, and, after a long and patient trial, were acquitted.—Mr. Sullivan, proprietor of the *Nation*, and Mr. Pigott, proprietor of the *Irishman*, convicted at the present Dublin Assizes of publishing seditious libels upon the Government, were sentenced on Saturday morning. Mr. Justice Fitzgerald said it was the grossest folly or the most flagrant misrepresentation to say that the Fenians at Manchester were not legally and righteously executed—not for a political offence, but for murder, and that government would be impossible if the administration of justice were to be so grossly labelled as it had been by the defendants. Sullivan was sentenced to six months' and Pigott to twelve months' imprisonment, and at the expiration of those periods to be bound over in heavy recognisances to be of good behaviour.

The Cork policeman Casey, who was shot in the leg by the alleged Fenian, Captain Mackay, while resisting his capture, died in the infirmary last Saturday of gangrene. The boy Leary, who was wounded by the police during the late riots, is also dead.

THE LONDON GAZETTE.

FRIDAY, FEB. 21.

BANKRUPTCIES ANNULLED.—W. SADLER, Bow, dealer in mining property.—R. BROWN, Deal, shipping agent.—H. A. HOLDEN, Chesham, contractor.—B. H. DREW, Stockland, general merchant.

BANKRUPT.—R. INDER, Shirley, gardener.—J. LUNAN, City, linen-factor.—G. F. HALTON, Luton, architect.—G. ROSE, Pentonville, orchardener.—T. BARNES, Ilington, hosier.—T. LAMFRAY, Paternoster-row, paper merchant.—F. G. BLAKEMORE, Bexley-heath.—A. PAUDLE, Westbourne-grove, bookmaker.—J. H. HICKS, Jewin-court, Jewin-street, artificial florist.—S. STANESBY, Lower Wandsworth-road, lithographic artist.—W. EDWARDS, Burrell, machinist.—W. A. HAMMON, Tottenham-court-road, builder.—W. PEARCE, Barnsbury-road, grocer.—W. FULLER, Nottingham, cab proprietor.—G. BROOKS, Lichfield, J. EMMETT, Watford, grocer.—F. DYKE, Greenham, dealer in hay.—A. GOLDSMITH, Croydon, smith.—W. J. LATHAM, Hammersmith, printer.—R. SPENCER, Lambeth, tailor.—C. C. ROYER, Camden Town, joiner.—T. KEAN, Sturford, builder.—G. WEST, Maidstone, manure-dealer.—G. J. CLEARY, Clonmel, agent, Regent's Park, master mariner.—S. EDWARDS, Worthen, miller.—J. SPOONER, son, Birmingham, clerk.—J. WELCH and J. 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